THE SHAKERITE

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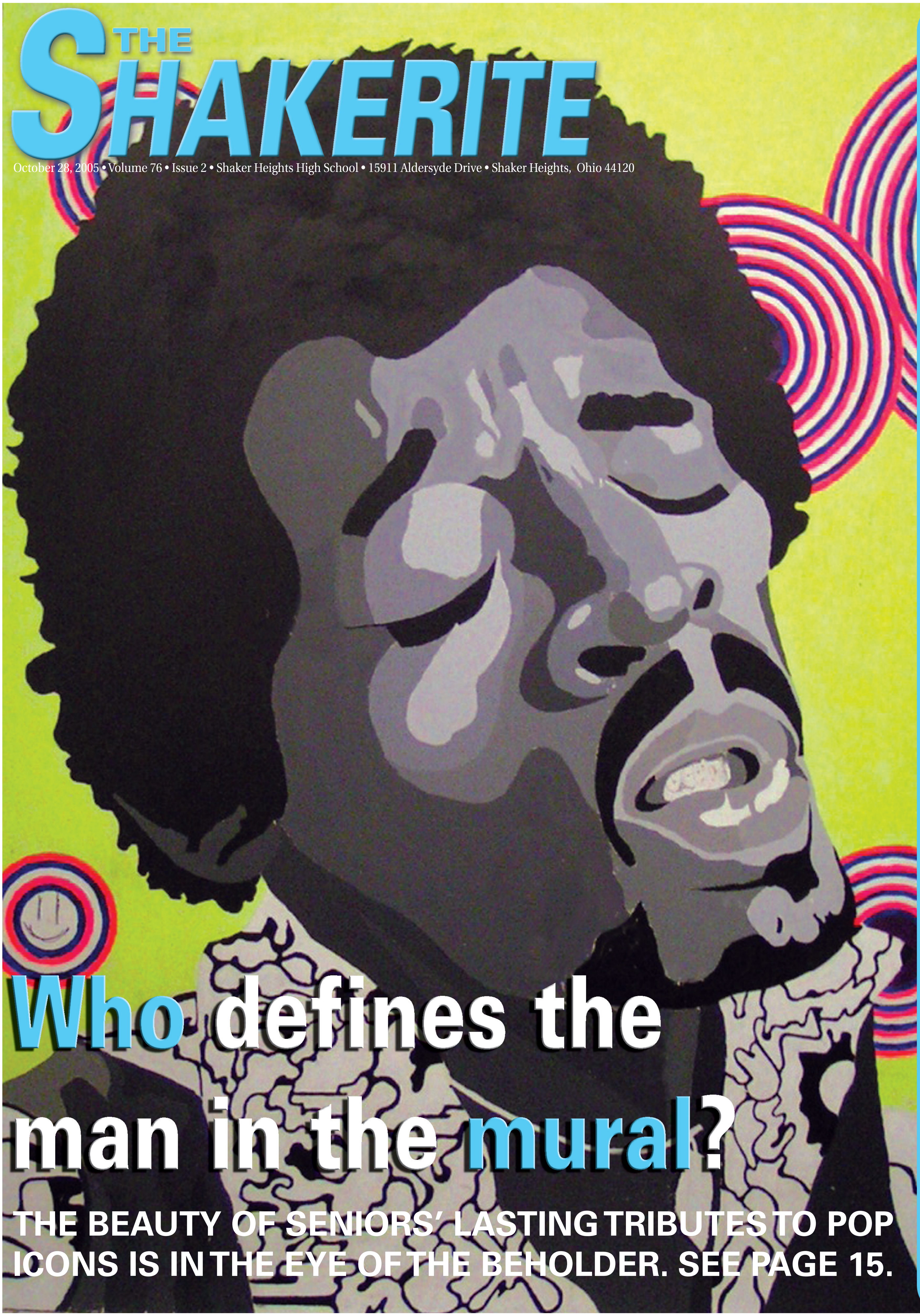


Who defines the man in the mural?

THE BEAUTY OF SENIORS' LASTING TRIBUTES TO POP ICONS IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER. SEE PAGE 15.

STATE BOUND

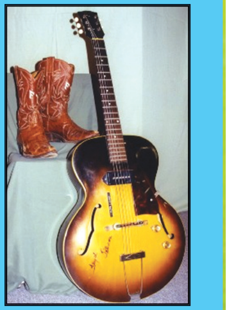
WOMEN'S TENNIS SQUAD CAPTURES YET ANOTHER LEL TITLE AND SENDS PAIR TO STATE TOURNAMENT.

PAGE 22

NOT A MORNING PERSON?

APPARENTLY, NEITHER ARE STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS. THEY'VE MOVED THEIR 7:15 A.M. MEETINGS TO 10TH PERIOD.

PAGE 5



HEY Y'ALL!

ADMIT IT. YOU LISTEN TO TWANGY GUITARS, TOO. COUNTRY MUSIC IS ON SHAKER STUDENTS' PLAYLISTS, BUT DON'T BE SURPRISED IF THEY WON'T TELL YOU.

PAGE 16

Cover shot: the senior project mural depicting rock guitarist Jimi Hendrix and painted by Richie Duchon ('98) is located in the hallway across from Room 156. Photo by Dan Snider.

What's Inside

10.28.05

EDITORS' NOTE

How to handle a slur redefined

Dear readers,

While editing stories this month, we found ourselves in unfamiliar territory; after a column was submitted containing the word "nigga," we had to decide whether that word is appropriate to publish in a story written by a white student.

AVIVA ARIEL

While it's common to hear this word throughout the school, it is also evident that the speaker's identity can affect the word's connotation. The n-word originated in an era of segregation and blatant racism, and, like many words in a living language, has evolved or devolved (depending on your perspective and/or the spelling) over time. In certain circles, it is now a welcome term of affection while in others it continues to provoke the strongest offense.

The challenge lies in relating to the casual use of the word. In Josh Davidson's column, it appears in a quote from an African-American student who commented on the writer's jeans. As two white Jewish girls, it is difficult for us to come to terms with the new, endearing meaning of the word. Is it appropriate to publish this word in a quote? We've reported it in Heard in the Halls -- a collection of overheard student language -- in past years. In those cases "nigga" was used by students for whom the term exists in its contemporary sense, attempting to cancel the hideous meaning of the original n-word.

EMILY GRANNIS

Why, then, would we hesitate to publish the word in a column? Because, unlike Heard in the Halls, a column features the name, image and ideas of the writer. If the race of the speaker or writer determines whether the use of the word is accpetable in daily student speech, does it also determine whether a white columnist can quote an African-American student who says it? According to a Shakerite poll, just 23 percent of students believe the term is appropriate for the newspaper.

Indeed, controversy follows the word wherever it's published. The student newspaper of the University of Florida recently printed an editorial cartoon depicting Secretary of State Condolezza Rice using the word to rapper Kanye West after he claimed the president doesn't care about African-Americans. Students, faculty and national media reacted explosively, accusing the editors of promoting racism. Joe Hice, a university spokesman, drew the distinction between using it in conversation (in his example, attending a concert where it is used) and printing it.

"People who don't want to hear the word can choose not to buy a ticket to a performance by someone who uses it," he said. "But in a newspaper, the word stands out and people have no idea that they are going to find it there."

Ultimately, we decided that although some readers will no doubt be offended by this word, removing it from a student's quote amounts to censorship of not only the speaker but also a significant aspect of student culture. We welcome your response to this decision; please email comments or criticisms to shakerite@shaker.org.

HALLOWEEN, HIGH-SCHOOL STYLE

Double, double toil and trouble; fire burn and cauldron bubble. Prepare yourself for some Halloween pride; look inside for our comprehensive guide.

PAGE 21, THE BEAT

10.28.05
The Core
A ROYAL FLUSH

CRAPS IN THE CRAPPER

Whether they're shooting dice in the boys' restrooms or dealing poker at the dining room table, some Shaker students have jumped on the nationwide gambling bandwagon.

PAGE 11, THE CORE

STICKER SHOCK

As gas prices climb, students struggle for driving dollars, often making parents and friends pick up the tab.

PAGE 5, NOTEWORTHY

FIRST TO BE LAST

Nate Clements ('98), now a Pro-Bowl defensive back for the Buffalo Bills, became the first Shaker athlete to be honored with the retirement of a jersey.

PAGE 24, RAIDER ZONE

SHAKERITE
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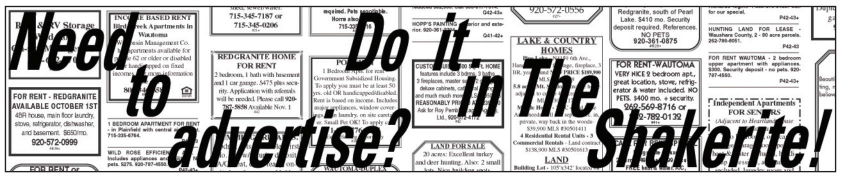


Shaker Heights
Teacher's Association
SHTA
Professionals
Dedicated to Educating
Shaker Youth

This Month

10.28.05

This Month now includes student birthdays so that you will remember to congratulate your classmates on aging. Many famous people also celebrate their special days in November, although you may not be able to drop them a card. Diddy turns 35 on Nov. 4, and Sammy Sosa opens presents on Nov. 12. Travis Barker rocks out to happy birthday as he turns 30 on Nov. 14, while Jon Stewart and Ben Stiller both hit the big 4-0 in the last week of the month. If you would like to nominate someone's birthday for inclusion in The Shakerite calendar, send your request to shakerite@shaker.org, subject: This Month.

Happy Birthday
3

THANKSGIVING

by the #'s

256

million turkeys raised in the United States in 2005

649

million pounds of cranberries produced in the United States in 2005

998

million pounds of pumpkins grown in 2004

3

cities named after Turkey; Turkey, Texas, Turkey Creek, Louisiana and Turkey, North Carolina

more than 5

million dollars of live turkey imports, all from Canada

65

degrees Fahrenheit is the record high for Thanksgiving day in Shaker; 7 degrees is the record low.

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NOVEMBER FAST FACTS **Class Periods - 126** **Days of School - 18** **Flower - Chrysanthemum** **Peanut Butter Lovers Month** **Birthstone - Topaz**		**1** Election Day Ratdog at HOB, 8 p.m. $35-$45 Pianofest at CIM, 7:30 p.m. $5	**2** Cavalier's Home opener vs. New Orleans Hornets, 7 p.m.	**3** Sandwich Day Street Dogs, River City Rebels, Brain Failure and Labor Force at GS, 9p.m. $8-$10	**4** FH state semi-finals and finals through 11/5 Bennie Norton turns **18**	**5** MxPx with Relient K and Rufio HOB 6:30p.m. $20 SAT and Subject Test 7:45a.m.-1p.m. Aretha Franklin and Elvis Costello @ PS 8p.m. $20-40
6 Tessa Heller turns **16**	**7** SMASH Choir and Orchestra Room, 7 p.m.	**8** Election Day WS States through 11/12 OKGO, She Wants Revenge and Boatzz at GS, 9 p.m. $10 Paula Bey turns **16**	**9** Women's Fall Athletic Awards 6:30 p.m. Board of Education Meeting in High School Library 8 p.m. Jordanna Olarte turns **17**	**10** The Briefs and Sex Crimes at GS, 9 p.m. $10 Laurice Shelven turns **17**	**11** NO SCHOOL Veterans' Day Parent teacher confrences HIM, Finch and Skindread at Agora, 7p.m. $25	**12** Hanson with Pat Mcgee Band at HOB, 7p.m. $28-$40 John Jamison turns **15**
13 Pennywise with Stick of it All at HOB, 6 p.m. $17-$19	**14** Band Boosters Band Room, 7 p.m.	**15** America Recycles Day Shanna Thompson turns **17**	**16** Stephen Zawodzinski turns **16**	**17** Early Dissmissal	**18** Mickey Mouse's Birthday "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" Release Multicultural Luncheon	**19** V LAX garage sale 9 a.m.-1p.m. in South Gym Matisyahu with Pigeon John at Odeon, 9p.m. $18
20	**21** World TV Day Chelsey Baker turns **15**	**22**	**23** NO SCHOOL JV&V WB Glenville A, 4 p.m. "Rent" Release	**24** NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Day Kevin Ekeberg turns **15**	**25** NO SCHOOL! Sinkie Day IH Tournament @ Metroplex through 11/27 ITAL @ GS 9p.m. $10	**26** WB Canton McKinley H, 6p.m. Video Games Live at PS, 7:30p.m. $20-$55
27 Rusted Root at Odeon, 7:30 p.m. $25 Brittany Dimeff turns **18**	**28** Progress Reports mailed WB Bay Village H, 6 p.m. Jasmine Horne turns **15**	**29** Hawthorne Hts with Silverstein, Bayside and Aden at HOB, 6:30 p.m. $17-$20 Julia Buchheim turns **17**	**30** Fall Theatre Production Preview, 7p.m. Nikki Rucker turns **15**	**CALENDAR KEY** **HOB - House of Blues** **CIM - Cleveland Institue of Music** **GS - Grog Shop** **FH - Field Hockey** **PS- Playhouse Square** **LAX - Lacrosse**	**V - Varsity** **JV - Junior Varsity** **WB - Women's Basketball** **IH - Ice Hockey** **H - Home** **A- Away**	

MOVIE MANIA

"Difficult times lie ahead." Well maybe for Harry Potter in his upcoming movie, but not for movie theaters in November because two highly anticipated movies come out this month: "Rent" (Nov. 23) and "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" (Nov. 18). Harry's difficulties continue in the fourth movie of the series, which follows the now teenage wizard as he participates in a dangerous school competition. The movie is the first in its series to receive a PG-13 rating for violence and strong images. Another highly anticipated movie is "Rent," which is based on the long-running Broadway rock musical about a diverse group of friends coping with AIDS, drug addiction and the difficulties of making ends meet in New York City. Don't worry, Rent-heads, the movie will star primarily the original Broadway cast and will strictly follow the original plot and music.

DINING AT THE KITCHEN SINK

Between schoolwork, practice and instant messaging, there just isn't time for a sit- down dinner. It makes much more sense to grab some leftovers from the fridge, scarf them down over the sink and get back to whatever you were doing before. Believe it or not, you are not alone in this practice. The International Association of People who Dine over the Kitchen Sink approves of this dining style. If you eat standing in front of an open refrigerator, dine on the dashboard in the car or devour your meal over the sink, you are considered a sinkie. Sinkie dining requires no reservations, tipping or annoying table conversations. It's the perfect way to enjoy a speedy, easy meal. Sinkie Day is celebrated the day after Thanksgiving because the combination of Christmas shopping and Thanksgiving leftovers provides the prefect opportunity to enjoy a quick meal.

VIDEO GAMES TAKE THE STAGE

Video Games Live is a dynamic combination of a musical concert, a dramatic stage show and an interactive video game. Through videos and specially designed laser and light sequences, the show highlights more than 50 different video games, including Mario, Zelda and Final Fantasy. Video game footage is accompanied by its familiar music, preformed by a full orchestra and choir. The show also showcases retro arcade classics, including a montage showing the evolution of video games through time. As part of an interactive segment, lucky audience members will be called up on stage to play their favorite video games live, while the orchestra follows along with the music. As an added bonus, viewers will see exclusive clips of the hottest video games. The show will appeal to video game lovers as well as those indifferent to the games, so consider checking out this unique event.

Compiled by Allison Scharfstein

Warning! You'll soon need more than just pencils and paper to be ready for the school day. To stay warm for learning, you'll need to start carrying an extra sweater. In the wake of rising natural gas prices, the district aims to reduce fuel costs, in part by turning down thermostats. Administrators anticipate that the cost of heating district buildings will nearly double, from $52,000 per month to $98,000. In an effort to save fuel, thermostats in all schools and offices will be set between 66 and 68 degrees during the day and at 60 degrees at night. Caulking drafty windows and redesigning bus routes for fuel efficiency and less idling time are also on the conservation menu.

Be there or scared; cut calls resume

BY HANNAH GORDON AND ABBY SCHILLER
STAFF REPORTERS

"I'm left in the dark," said physical science teacher Travis Cox, who has been teaching for five years.

"I don't necessarily understand how to distinguish unexcused absences from excused ones."

Cox is referring to the automated attendance system, which has been in a period of transition this fall as the district pilots new software that will eventually be used in many area schools. Until Oct. 11, the new attendance software did not provide an easy way for teachers to check on student absences.

And, to the delight of some class cutters, it wasn't long before students realized the dreaded cut calls were not reaching parents' at home, either. Problems with the new Phone Master software suspended automated attendance phone calls, known as cut calls, until Oct. 20.

So, skipping class without mom and dad knowing was easier, and your teacher had a hard time determining whether your absence was legitimate.

"This is a problem for me as a teacher because I don't accept late work from students who cut, and I don't know who is legitimately absent," English teacher Cathy Lawlor said.

In previous years, teachers entered student attendance by computer, and parents of absent students received a recorded phone message explaining simply that their child had missed one or more classes and that the parent should call the office to excuse the absence. (The phone system, however, was notoriously inaccurate, with phone calls often going to homes of students who had not in fact been absent). Teachers then received an email report detailing the status of their students' absences.

The Phone Master system will work similarly. A recorded message will go out to absent students' homes, but Principal Michael Griffith said parents may eventually be given a code that corresponds to the particular classes missed, which would allow them to excuse student absences via e-mail or an automated phone system.

"Hopefully the new system is going to make it easier for parents to excuse their child's absences," Cox said.

According to Griffith, there are still lots of kinks to work out. Students, however, don't seem concerned.

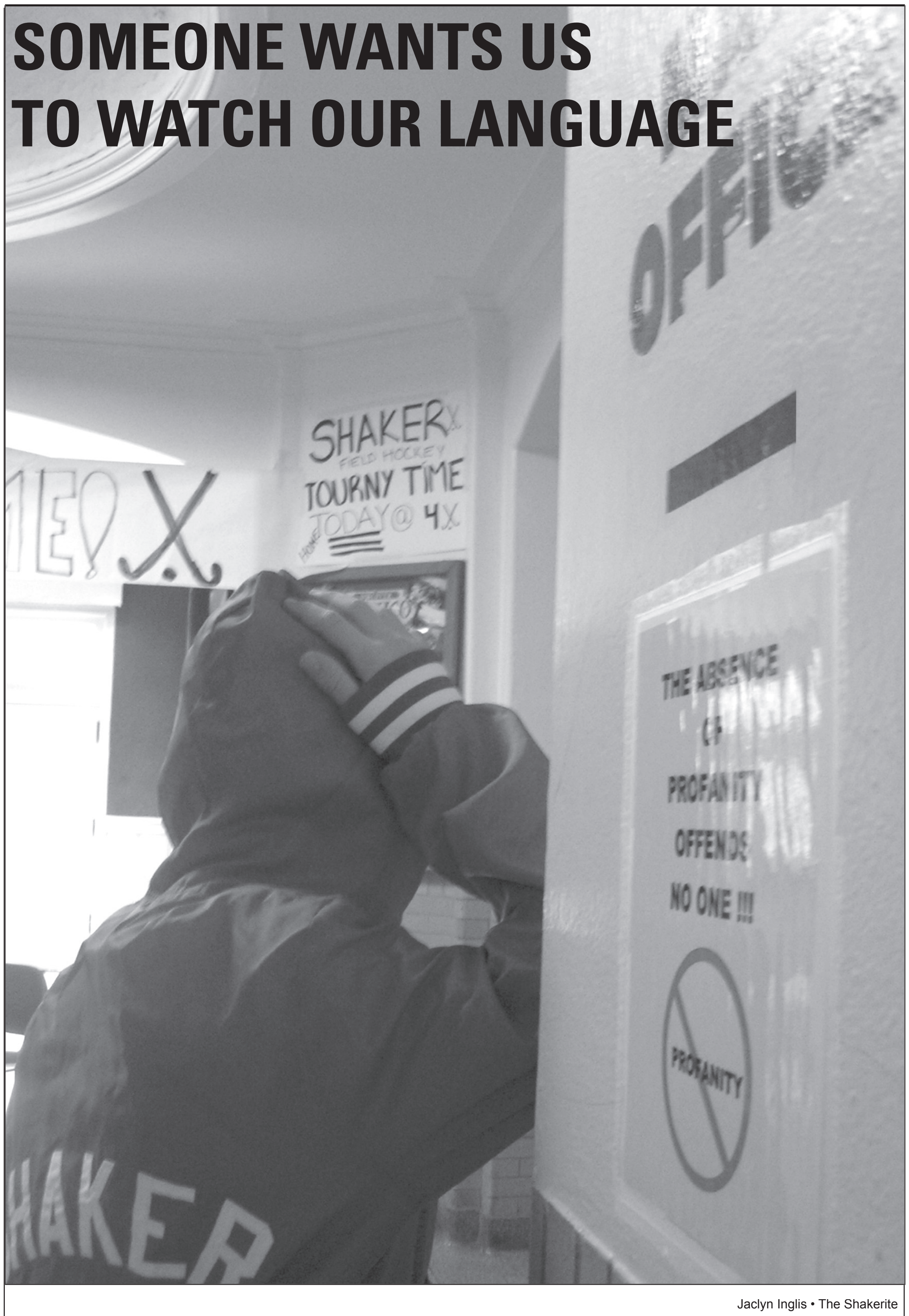
"Not getting cut calls is affecting me in a positive way," said junior Ali Wiest, who said she would rather have her parents be informed of her absences at the end of the quarter; if they were informed on a daily basis she could get in trouble at home.

Griffith said the new attendance features won't be ready until roughly the end of the semester.

Latin teacher Robert White, on the other hand, does not feel effects of the new system.

"For me, it's just another system, no better or worse."

SOMEONE WANTS US TO WATCH OUR LANGUAGE



Jaclyn Inglis • The Shakerite

FIVE SIGNS STATING "The absence of profanity offends no one" and created by a yet-to-be discovered source, were posted during the Oct. 13-16 break in the main office window, outside the library and in the hallway near Room 100. Neither Principal Michael Griffith nor the faculty Respect Committee, which addresses school climate issues, knows who created the signs.

BRIEFS

BOARD OF EDUCATION

At the September board of education meeting:

- Preliminary attendance figures suggested there are more than 600 freshmen at the high school. Dr. Mark Freeman, superintendent, said this figure includes many students in alternative schools but that it still seemed "a little bit high." Freeman added that the school does not let students who lack the required credits move to the next grade.

- Board president Steven Kaufman said the state is in a "crisis" when it comes to public school funding. Several taxes are being phased out, meaning school districts statewide are facing decreased state funding. Shaker's Finance and Audit Committee is currently debating whether to place a levy on the May 2006 ballot, as had been previously discussed. The 2005-6 budget calls for the district to tap into cash reserves left over by surpluses in the past two years. Should no additional funds come in from a levy, the district faces a $17 million shortfall by 2010.

At the October Finance and Audit Committee (school district) meeting:

- The most recent financial five-year forecast for the district assumes a levy in May 2006 and another levy in 2008 in order to maintain solvency. In addition, it predicts capping salary increases at 2 percent. None of these changes has been implemented; they were just used for calculation purposes.

Compiled by Lauren Weiss

STUDENT COUNCIL

- At the Oct. 19 Student Council meeting, members discussed ways of encouraging school spirit, resulting in a three-day spirit week Oct. 26-28. The council's Spirit Committee suggested themes such as tacky day, twin day and red and white day. Additional incentives for raising Raider pride include spirit buses and Shaker "thunder sticks," foam fingers and the possible creation of a Raider mascot.

Compiled by Carrie Reese

Linda Loeffler, science teacher and colleague

BY EMILY GRANNIS
EDITOR IN CHEIF

Linda Loeffler, a Shaker science teacher for 17 years, died Oct. 16 after a long illness.

Loeffler began in Shaker as a substitute in January 1987, later working in the middle school and finally joining the high school staff in 1998. She taught physical science and biology.

Science department Chairman Roderick MacLeod described Loeffler as dedicated.

"She put a lot of time and effort into working with the students she had," MacLeod said.

Loeffler was "instrumental in helping set up the Comprehensive Course," according to MacLeod. This general class is designed for seniors who need a third science course before graduation but don't want to take a specialized class.

Biology teacher Michael Becker had Loeffler as a seventh-grade biology teacher and was later her colleague at the high school. He said she had an influence on his career choice.

"She helped me through science fair in seventh grade," Becker said, smiling. "She was a very dedicated and energetic person. We're going to miss her. She was a role model for me as a student and as a teacher."

A memorial service for Loeffler will be held at 11 a.m. Nov. 5 at Fairmount Presbyterian Church at Fairmount Boulevard and Coventry Road in Cleveland Heights.

Loeffler

RISING GAS PRICES DRAIN BROKE DRIVERS

BY NATE MAUND
STAFF REPORTER

"I'll stop in the middle of Shaker Boulevard and tell them to get out if they can't pay me," said Erin Cox, a junior who charges passengers she drives to and from school in her Honda CRV. "I won't let them out of the car until they pay me."

Junior Celeste Duval is one of the people Cox transports.

"I have to pay five dollars each time I get in [Cox's] car," said Duval, although she added that she hasn't actually gotten around to giving Cox any money.

Other members of Cox's carpool, however, are more blunt about the situation.

"Oh, hell no," sophomore John Gruber said. "I'm not paying her to drive me."

But Gruber may want to start making those payments, because Cox appears to mean business.

"I ran into Chas Mizer with my car because he wouldn't pay me," Cox said.

This way of conducting business with friends is not just a ploy to make money. Cox estimates that she drives about an hour a day during the week and four hours on the weekend; she maintains that her fee schedule is simply an effort to keep up with ever-increasing gasoline prices.

"Usually my parents pay for it, but I still have to pay for half of it," she said.

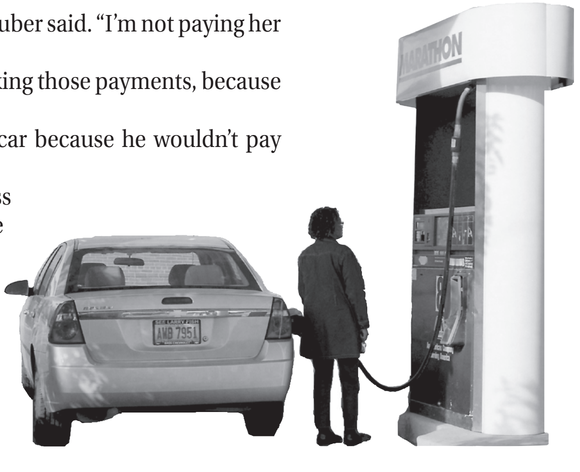


Photo by Adam Maraschky • The Shakerite

According to the American Automobile Association website, the national average for a gallon of unleaded gas peaked Sept. 5 at $3.04. In Cleveland, the prices hover near average at $2.91 a gallon, while last year's average national price was $1.93.

With gas flirting with an average of $3 per gallon, Cox is certainly not the only one feeling the strain.

Senior April Griffin got a job at the Bertram Woods Public Library to help pay her gas bill.

"Sometimes I charge $3 a ride," Griffin said. "[The cost] is ridiculous. It pisses me off on a regular basis."

Even with gas prices at record highs, Clevelanders don't seem to be conserving by driving less or even by buying cars that have better gas mileage

"[The number of customers] is about the same," said Mechele Crosby, a four-year employee at the BP gas station at the intersection of Chagrin Boulevard and Richmond Road.

According to Crosby, customers are still buying the same amount of gas. She also mentioned that gas stations never know what their prices are going to be on a given day.

"Our prices sometimes change three times within a half hour," Crosby said.

Sophomore Dean Pohlman is more optimistic than his classmates.

"We're lucky that [gas] is not as expensive as it is in Europe," said Pohlman, whose parents pay for his estimated three or four hours of driving on the weekend.

Indeed, the average gas prices in the United Kingdom, Germany and France are $5.79, $5.57 and $5.54 respectively. In Amsterdam the price is a whopping $6.48, while Venezuelans pay only 48 cents per gallon because their government owns the gasoline.

According to CNN.com, the huge price differences between countries can mainly be attributed to each country's tax rate on gasoline.

For senior Peter Elliott, the rising prices are not a big issue due to his limited time on the road.

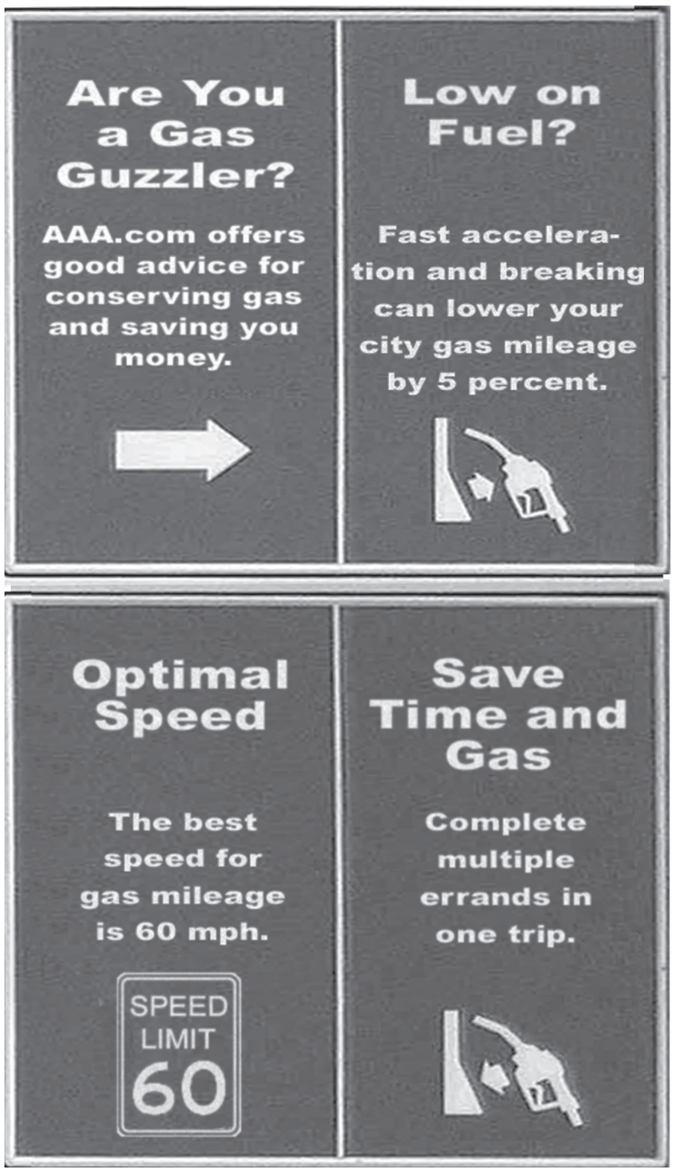
"I don't drive that much as it is, so a half tank of gas lasts me a long while," Elliot said, noting that he drives his 1998 Saab 9000 --which gets about 22 miles per gallon in the city and 25 miles per gallon on the highway -- about 45 minutes a day.

"Sometimes my mom or dad will pay for [gas,] but usually I pay for it myself," he said.

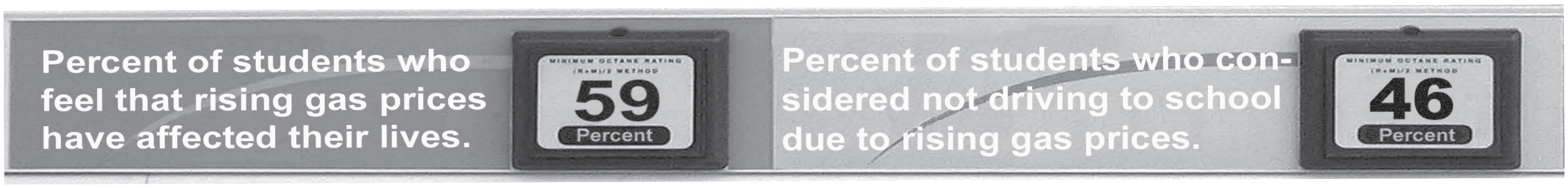
Mimi Testen, the mother of junior Glen Testen, said that she and her husband pay for their son's auto insurance, but only foot the gas bill when he is unable to afford it.

"We ask him not to take any unnecessary trips," she said. Testen, whose son currently drives a Honda Odyssey, also noted that she plans to get a more fuel-efficient vehicle when the time comes to buy a new car.

"A pony," she joked.


Are You a Gas Guzzler?
AAA.com offers good advice for conserving gas and saving you money.
Low on Fuel?
Fast accelera-tion and breaking can lower your city gas mileage by 5 percent.
Optimal Speed
The best speed for gas mileage is 60 mph.
SPEED LIMIT 60
Save Time and Gas
Complete multiple errands in one trip.

Scientific poll of 167 students with a margin of error +/- 8 percent. Shakerite editors telephoned students.



Student Council squeezes meetings into school day

Dan Snider • The Shakerite

STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT David Goldsmith runs the Oct. 19 tenth-period meeting.

KATE NEUBERT
STAFF REPORTER

Tight schedules and busy students have caused Student Council meetings to be rescheduled from before school to during school.

Once a month, council members are excused from tenth period for a group meeting. Council member Sophia Bellin-Warren, a freshman, does not find missing class a problem.

"It's only once a month," Bellin-Warren said. "We couldn't really have it any other time."

Bellin-Warren feels that tenth period absences have not caused issues for council members' learning, and that students involved in the group are typically very responsible. In order to keep up with class, Bellin-Warren gets assignments in advance.

"I go to my teacher earlier in the day," she said.

"If they're taking time out of class to improve our school, then it's no big deal," said Courtney Gill, a student in Bellin-Warren's tenth period English class.

"It doesn't bother me as long as they're a student who is willing to come in after school and make up the work," said Bellin-Warren's English teacher, Carole Kovach. She also added that it would be nice if the meetings were sometimes scheduled during other class periods.

"They're responsible enough to keep up with all of their school work for the missed class, [so] it shouldn't make a difference," Gill said.

According to Student Council President David Goldsmith, after-school meetings are not an option except on days with early dismissal because members cannot afford to miss extracurricular activities.

"We have a lot of kids in sports and theater," he said, adding that student involvement in the school community is important for many who join the council.

According to Goldsmith, a senior, the change was made because students may be tired, or even busy, in the morning.

"[Also,] in the morning there's only a limited amount of time," Goldsmith said.

Catherine Cook, freshman class president, thinks it is especially important that meetings do not conflict with after-school activities. "[The meetings] are during school so that people wouldn't miss out on conference time after school," Cook said. "I think it's better for the students."

RELIGIOUS SPEECH DRAWS PUNISHMENT

Compiled by Carrie Reese

1 FISHERSVILLE, VA

Sept. 9

A Virginia high school student was suspended for three days after passing out pamphlets with religious material without getting prior approval from the school. The leaflets were linked to a website asking for donations to a religious organization. The school is working to make rules clearer for future students.

SPLC.org

2 PITTSBURGH, PA

Oct. 13

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported that the Seneca Valley school district is selling the name of their stadium to a corporate sponsor. The sponsor will have their name on the stadium for 10 years for the price of $50,000. Instead of regular old fields and stadiums, imagine having names such as "Domino's Field" or "Pepsi Stadium."

NSBA.org

3 NEWARK, NJ

Sept. 21, 2005

The students of Caldwell High fought and won a dispute with the school board over permission to publish a previously censored article about sex. The article published in the school newspaper, The Caldron, discussed national sexual trends and studies compared to their own high school.

SPLC.org

4 BEAVER COUNTY, PA

Sept. 9

A middle school student was expelled for posting rap lyrics on the Internet from his home computer. He was allowed to reenter school after a judge ruled that the lyrics weren't a "true threat" and school activities were not substantially disrupted.

SPLC.org

5 BLOOMSBURG, PA

Aug. 17

The Central Columbia School Board voted 5-3 to allow school officials to punish students for behavior off school grounds. Students can be punished for words and actions causing disruption in school activities.

SPLC.org

6 CLEVELAND

Nov. 8

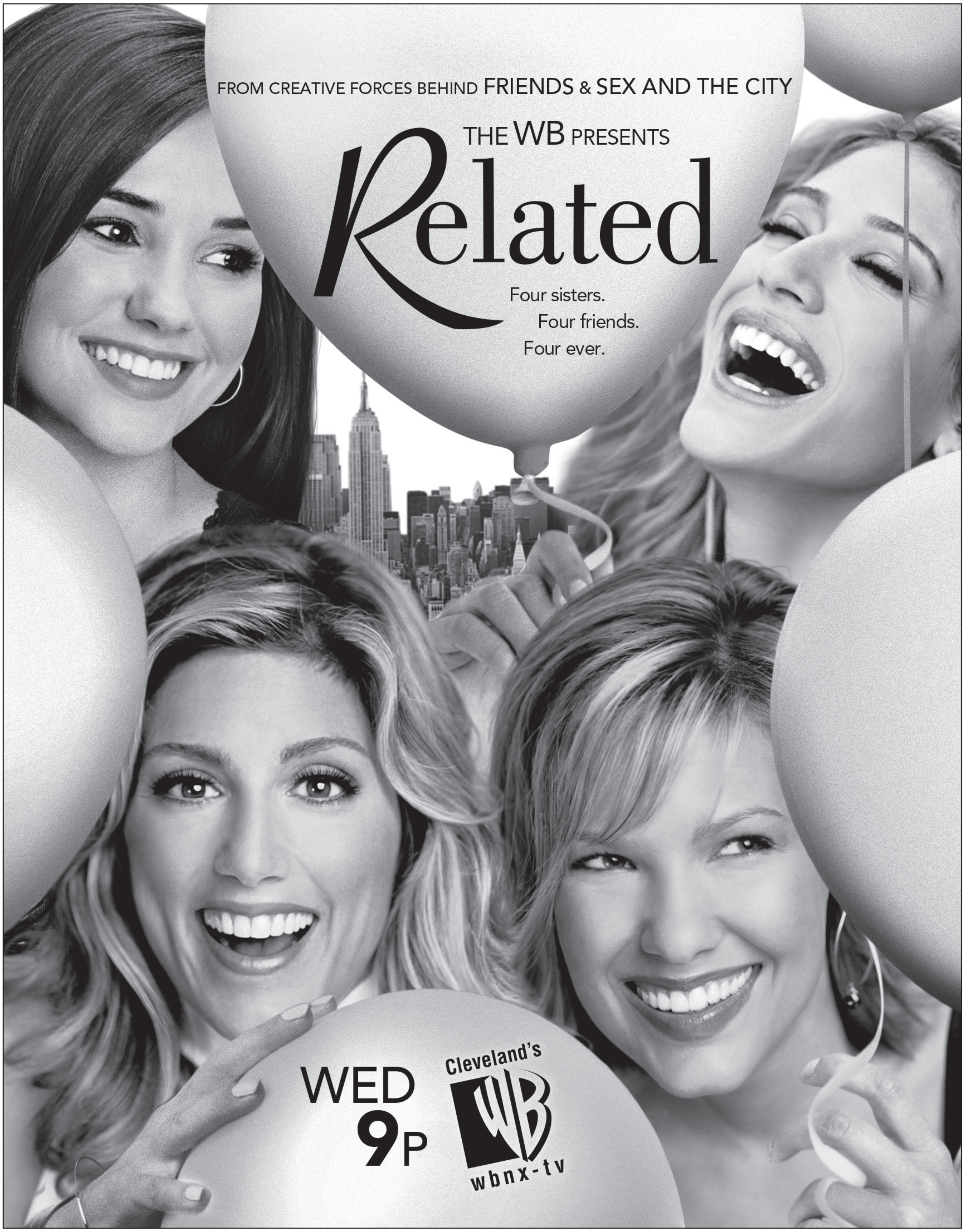
The election for Cleveland city mayor will be held Nov. 8 when Clevelanders will vote for either Frank Jackson or incumbent Jane Campbell.

7 GAINESVILLE, FL

Sept. 9

The University of Florida's Independent Florida Alligator printed an editorial cartoon displaying Kanye West holding a playing card with "the race card" written on it, standing next to Condoleeza Rice saying, "Nigga pleasea!" This cartoon was printed two weeks after West reportedly said that President Bush doesn't care about black people.

SPLC.org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THE WB PRESENTS
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Here's what you can do when you turn 18:

- Be tried as an adult in a court of law
- Vote in elections
- Marry without parental consent
- Make a valid will
- Enter into a contract as an adult
- Be eligible for jury duty

Other milestones:

- Age 16: Drive
- Age 17: See rated-R movies
- Age 21: Drink
- Age 25: Rent a car
- Age 40: Have a mid-life crisis
- Age 50: Join the AARP

Eighteen isn't everything you imagined

MIRIAM MOORE

Turning 18 was not all fun and games. There was no passing GO, collecting $200 or getting out of jail free.

Now I'm in the real world: a place where an ID gets you cigarettes and a pile of credit card debt. I thought I would become a powerful young woman. I'm realizing that I have the right to join the army and be shipped off to Iraq, yet, according to school rules, I can't go on a field trip without permission from my parents. I don't quite understand this adulthood thing.

My first act as an adult was buying a $2 instant lottery ticket from CVS that lost -- so much for that. Next, I got a bank account because it seems like everybody on the planet has a bank account before they turn 18. So I joined Key Bank, got a credit card and I've already come close to maxing it out. It's fun now, but ask me what I think when I get the bill. After I got my bank account I registered to vote, which was quick, painless and patriotic -- I recommend it.

At this point I'm trying to rack my brain for all the cool stuff I can do as an adult, but I'm not finding much. It seems like 18 really isn't that great.

I do, however, like the fact that I can threaten my mother by warning her that I'll take up chain-smoking every time she stresses me out. Frankly, though, I thought there would be more to adulthood.

The school doesn't really like this whole "you're an adult" thing. Policy states that all students (regardless of age) are required to follow school guidelines, including procedure for excusing absences and signing permission forms, which seems to make less sense than forbidding students to be dropped off in front of the school in order to maintain traffic flow.

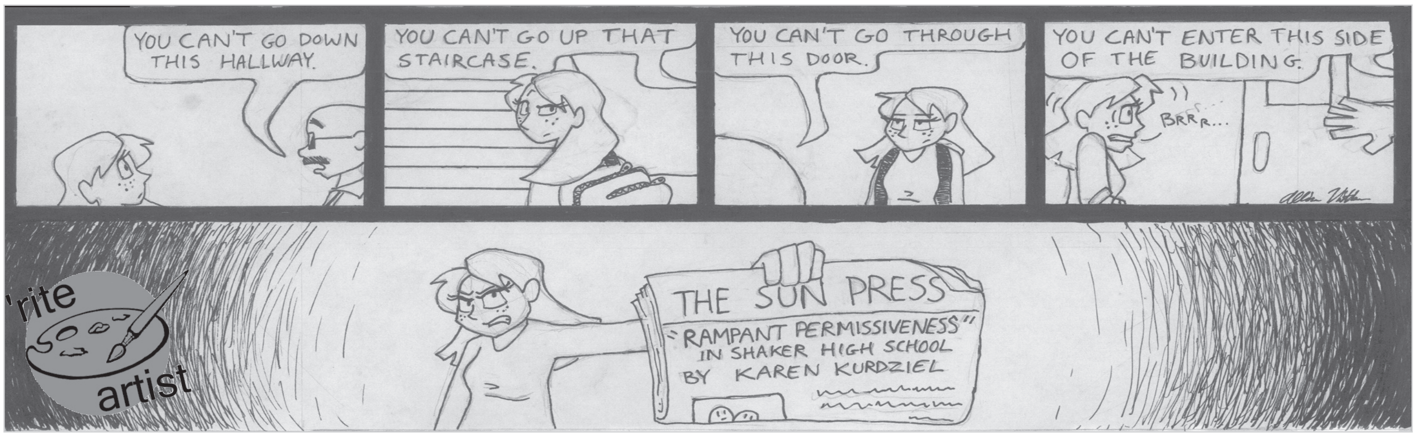
My parents are no longer my legal guardians, so why should they have to excuse me? I can die in a war, but heaven forbid I try to sign a note myself saying I went to the doctor. Hello?

The only real perk is that I can view and request changes to my record, but in contrast to the fact that I need Mommy and Daddy's permission to go to the Playhouse for an English field trip, it's not that exciting.

The real question is at what point do I actually become a full-blown, independent adult? Right now I'm stuck in this weird twilight zone where I get some adult privileges, but not others; I'm floating between being a kid and a young adult.

I had this quaint idea that I would be free as a bird when I turned the big 1-8. I'm realizing, however, that this process may not be an overnight sort of deal. I want the freedom associated with adulthood, but I don't want the responsibility that comes with it.

I figured adulthood would be this change where I become somebody different, somebody more important. It's been 18 years, and I have been waiting impatiently for these super powers to kick in. I recognize that it was not the legal rights that I wanted; it was the feeling of power. It doesn't have to do with whether I can buy porn or not, it's more of a respect thing. I just want the school, my parents and everybody in the world not to look down on me anymore. I'm a big girl now.


YOU CAN'T GO DOWN THIS HALLWAY.
YOU CAN'T GO UP THAT STAIRCASE.
YOU CAN'T GO THROUGH THIS DOOR.
YOU CAN'T ENTER THIS SIDE OF THE BUILDING.
BRRR...
THE SUN PRESS
"RAMPANT PERMISSIVENESS" IN SHAKER HIGH SCHOOL BY KAREN KURDZIEL
'rite artist

Allison Vitkus • The Shakerite

CITY COUNCIL AND BOE ENDORSEMENTS

'rite idea

In preparation for the Nov. 8 Board of Education and City Council elections, the editorial board interviewed candidates with the goal of making informed endorsements. The first step in this process was determining what we felt the qualifications are for people who serve on those bodies. Did each candidate's goals reflect awareness of and interest in issues concerning the high school and its community? Did they have reasonable and detailed plans with which to bring about necessary changes?

With their answers in mind, we endorse the following candidates for City Council and attempt to provide insight into the uncontested Board of Education election.

George

For City Council*:

George M. George: Schools are George's number-one priority. His daughter is a senior at the high school and is therefore highly aware of issues concerning students. He voiced an interest in holding a town hall meeting with students and is committed to creating recreational and job opportunities for teenagers. He has notable previous involvement in local youth programs, and his participation in programs such as the diversion court has given him a unique understanding of some of the issues facing Shaker Heights teens.

Ruffner

Lynn Ruffner: We found Ruffner's goal of creating "one voice" for the various organizations in Shaker, including council and school board, refreshing. She wants to focus on neighborhood issues, including dismantling stereotypes in our racially and socio-economically diverse community. One of her specific plans for alleviating the financial burden facing the city is seeking private funding for rehabilitation projects.

Zimmerman

Rob Zimmerman: We were impressed with Zimmerman's interest in Shaker issues. His young children would make him the only member of the council with pre-school aged kids. Zimmerman enumerated four specific goals for his term: improving recreational opportunities, cleaning up the Shaker Lakes area, repaving streets and reducing the tax burden to individual property owners. It was especially refreshing that Zimmerman engaged editorial board members in a discussion of issues at the high school and seemed genuinely interested in our response.

* Five people are running for three openings in city council. Brian Gleisser is the only incumbent. We found few specific reasons for high school students to support him. Though his record in City Council is respectable, the three candidates discussed above offered more promise for improvement and focused more clearly on teen issues. We were unable to reach Isaac Powell for an interview.

Bliss

For Board of Education:

Norman Bliss: Bliss is a senior vice president with First Merit Bank and therefore can bring a "unique fiscal perspective" to the board. He suggested raising local foundations' contributions and lobbying the state for more comprehensive funding. In the meantime, he could offer only the option of "maintaining fiscal stewardship."

Bliss also expressed a desire to get parents more involved in the schools. He suggested holding meetings in the evening and providing babysitters and food. Another impressive aspect of Bliss' platform was his willingness to hear student opinion. He emphasized that students should take an active role in the school board. "If you don't include students, you're going to miss out," he said.

Feeling

F. Drexel Feeling: Feeling is the only incumbent in the school board race. He has served on the board for four years. Though we recognize and value his experience, we were disappointed to find that he offered very few new ideas or solutions. He described the board's role as one of advocating for the citizens but admitted that he rarely visits the high school, receiving information through his daughter and wife instead. Feeling said that his job is making the district focus on the future and spoke about wanting to close the achievement gap and improve the district's financial outlook. We were impressed with the fact that Feeling also serves as one of the board's representatives to the district's Finance and Audit Committee.

Tucker Sutherland

Annette Tucker Sutherland: We were not encouraged by Sutherland's statement that she knew there were issues but said she could offer no solutions. We were further disheartened when she appeared to disregard the significance of the high school voting population. However, Sutherland has spent time at the high school observing several College Preparatory classes as well as the way students interact in the cafeteria and has also spent the past 10 years observing the Board of Education. She said she would welcome student and faculty feedback and input on issues facing the board. Sutherland's background in school finance could also prove useful during her tenure.

TV NEWS ISN'T ALL BAD

BY AVIVA ARIEL
EDITOR IN CHIEF

After a long day of struggling through history notes and navigating the overcrowded hallways that are more like the setting of "M*A*S*H" than "The O.C.," nothing is more appealing than turning on the TV and tuning out.

Unfortunately for me -- and for many of my peers who are not as aware of the failings of dinner-time news programs -- the belief that the 6 p.m. local newscast will actually report news leads many of us (44 percent of students, according to a Shakerite poll) to watch anchors who not only mislead us about the facts, but -– in recent years –- also seem determined to create more anxiety among viewers than the season premiere of "24."

In the past, I often alternated between surfing through the nightly news to hearing about stories from friends to even -- ahhhh! -- reading daily newspapers in order to remain informed, but for someone who seems busier than President Bartlett on "The West Wing," sleeping in seems more appealing than getting up early to read the headlines. I knew I had to find a solution, and I think I've finally found it.

You may have heard about it when talking about politics and current affairs, at the dinner table or even in history class, but I first encountered an, "Oh yeah! I saw that on 'The Daily Show,'" as a freshman when talking with my older, wiser senior friends, and now I'm the one saying it.

Sitting down my couch the other day, I reached for the remote to turn on my TiVo'ed episode of "The Daily Show" and realized that it had been more than a week since the last time I had picked up a newspaper. I had succumbed to the uncontrollable temptation of Jon Stewart. As a journalist and avid reader I had somehow become the exact thing that I struggle against every month as I work on creating a newspaper that appeals to the visually-oriented teenager; obviously my realization was more distressing than the cliffhanger at the end of last season's "Desperate Housewives."

How could I be one of those teenagers who simply turns to the easiest method of staying connected to the world? I've never even been tempted to watch Pamela Anderson's hit show on Fox (or any other genius invention of the major networks), but does my Comedy Central custom make me just as bad as everyone else who enjoys the passivity of TV?

The reality of the situation, however, is that between catching the show at night before bed and reading about it online, I've come to understand more about politics and the current state of the world from a show that describes itself as "a nightly half-hour series unburdened by objectivity, journalistic integrity or even accuracy," than I have any other way. This says something about me, but more importantly it says something about the quality of TV news programs.

So maybe I won't blame myself for joining the thousands addicted to "The Daily Show" because Jon knows I can't tear myself away, but even so, where else would I find out what it means to be "Borked?"

It takes strength to suck it up and be an adult -- even when you are the adult.

Parents encourage teens' misbehavior

BY KATE GUESS
THE BEAT EDITOR

According to an article in The Sun Press, a 13-year-old middle school girl was beaten up, her glasses broken and her flute damaged.

Who did it? Some other kids from the middle school. Ever wonder why some kids do things like that? Ask their parents.

The very same parents who are inspired to drive their children to a fight -- and sit in the car while the fight is occurring. How can a child be expected to rise above violent behavior when a parent endorses -- even facilitates -- the very same behavior? I am proud of the intelligence and decency of the Shaker Heights community, but that pride does little to counter evidence that some parents are failing to model those qualities for their kids, choosing instead to promote aggression as the solution to conflict.

Not all parents promote violence; a majority of Shaker students are well-behaved and pleasant. But the students screeching profanity or throwing punches are evidence that some parents need to send a better message to their kids.

School is meant to groom you for the big wide world, but school can't accomplish this alone. Kids should come to school knowing that successful people do not use their fists to thrive in that big, wide world. Maybe this incident will motivate the Shaker community to take action. Maybe the mayor, the city council, the PTO, the community's religious leaders and anyone willing to tackle this problem will work together to establish an outreach program for parents. Maybe they could reach out to parents in an effort to support them in modelling non-violence. If we expect to see fewer fights and more sensible conflict resolution in school, people outside of school need to step up.

It doesn't take strength to cuss and fight; it takes strength to suck it up and be an adult -- even when you are the adult. I would expect first graders to get into fights; it happens. But middle school students and parents? Instead of putting in sandboxes or swing sets around town, maybe we should just act our age.

And maybe it's time for the community to step in and lend a hand.

Thomas Bostwick • The Shakerite

More than just technology lessons

Nothing beats a summer evening cruising down the highway in a convertible. The wind whipping through your hair, a starry sky above, radio blaring. It was dark and the road was winding. As we approached each curve, the car turned at the last possible moment and my heart skipped a beat. Wondering if each moment would be my last, I called out to the front seat to see if anyone knew the speed limit. Peals of laughter floated back. The passengers were laughing at the radio, which was drowning out my pleas for a slower pace.

Lena Newman

I found myself similarly situated one August evening, just cruising in the car . . . with my grandparents.

Allow me to clarify. Every summer I spend a week with my Grandma at her home in Buffalo. This particular evening, we had driven up to the Shaw Festival in Ontario-on-the-Lake, Canada with her fiancé, Jim. After an enjoyable evening at the theater, we drove - rapidly - home along the gorgeous highway that parallels the Niagara River.

I was reluctant to go to Buffalo at first, thinking I would be bored out of my mind. I love spending time with my Grandma, but daily visits to Wegmann's for groceries can get old fast. This year, however, proved different. It was my job to help Grandma and Jim use their new favorite toys: matching cell phones.

To someone of our generation, knowing how to use a cell phone -- regardless of brand -- is an instinctive skill. The first important lesson comprised the basics; just because the light goes out on your screen doesn't mean the phone has turned itself off. Then we practiced adding names and numbers to the phone's contact list. These, coupled with computer lessons, were beginning to make me feel smug. I elevated myself from average cell phone user to technology despot, all because I gave simple pointers on text messaging.

But a part of me also felt guilty. Grandparents are supposed to be purveyors of wisdom, full of knowledge gained from a life of experience. They're supposed to teach you, not the other way around.

But the issue doesn't lie in your grandparents' technological inabilities. In a world of constant innovation, it is unfair to expect anyone to keep up. If our generation could hear the advice of our grandparents over the din in our iPod earbuds, perhaps we would realize that their words are still pertinent.

When I wasn't helping my grandma with her cell phone or computer, she had plenty of things to teach me. By slowing down and spending time with her, I learned that my grandma is a lot more of a teenager then I would have guessed. She was full of stories about skinny-dipping, vacationing and protesting. After watching Turner Classic Movies, I learned all about the Jude Law's of her day. Who knew Alan Ladd was so hot?

Grandparents are a valuable resource, and time with them is time well spent. I discovered how my grandparents met, something my mom had forgotten altogether. If we don't take the time to learn about our grandparents, crucial parts of our history will be lost.

Don't write off grandma because she'd rather talk on the phone than send you an e-mail. My week with my grandma was the best part of my summer. I've always wondered whom in my family I was most like. After really getting to know my grandma, I realized that I am more like her than I thought – even when it comes to driving.

ROOM EXCUSE

Name Allison Paetz

Grade Sophomore

It drives me crazy when people either insist on stopping and talking in the middle of the hallway, or, better yet, walking so slowly that snails would cry out in agony, "Hey, get out of my way!" Worst of all, when you bump into someone and don't say excuse me fast enough for their satisfaction, you get shoved into lockers. Ouch.

Shaker Heights City School District

ROOM EXCUSE

Name Meridith Weaver

Grade Junior

I think the hallways are crowded and noisy. People push and shove others into lockers. Security guards need to deal with the troublemakers and stop harassing those of us who aren't causing problems.

Shaker Heights City School District

HB-1040

ROOM EXCUSE

Name Tim Hill

Grade Sophomore

I don't think that there is any problem with the security guards. Some people say that there is racism, but I don't really think that there is. The security guards try to form friendships with everyone. There is a mutual respect between the students and the security guards.

HB-1040

Shaker Heights City School District

ROOM EXCUSE

Name Ayanna Smith

Grade Freshman

I think that the current hallway situation is OK.
The biggest improvement so far has been the up and down staircases. The new policy has made navigating the hallways a much simpler and faster process.

Shaker Heights City School District

HB-1040

STUDENTS DESERVE RESPECT

STEPHANIE GOLDFARB

guest 'rite

All the world's a stage, and at Shaker, we're in the spotlight. With The Sun Press directing the lighting, our high school has become the center of attention. In the aftermath of Mr. Slawson's letter and the resulting backlash in the community, I expected many changes this year - - heightened security, an emphasis on attire and conduct and renewed expectations of order. I was also hoping for a change in communication between the adults and the students. I find myself disappointed, especially in the wake of the "mutual-respect" campaign launched by the administration. It's time we took a step back and examined that "mutual" part of mutual respect. Administrators, faculty and staff members have made their expectations for the role of the student body exceedingly clear over the past weeks, but little attention has been paid to the role of adults in the high school.

With the scrutinizing microscope of the community focused on us, the administration has been under an excessive amount of pressure to regain control and many adults seem to have become overzealous while enforcing rules. The administrators can only help facilitate a respectful atmosphere by example, and many are failing to do so. Some adults in the high school are far less courteous to students than they encourage those same students to be. Students will not begin to provide the desired level of regard until the adults do the same.

The small group discussions on school issues at the beginning of the year were a positive start. The up and down stairwell policy was an almost immediate response to this student/administration discourse, but reducing hallway crowding can only go so far towards creating a positive learning environment. Some adults are preventing us from achieving this atmosphere, although they are often unaware that impolite interactions with students may lead to similar disrespect in return.

To the Administration: these unpleasant exchanges are destroying our faith and trust in your ability to judge right from wrong and distinguish guilt from innocence. These often-insulting interactions serve only to incite anger and resentment in the students and do nothing to inspire mutual respect. So to the administration, I have three simple requests:

1. While they are important devices for maintaining security, handheld radios should not be audible and disruptive to all classrooms throughout the day.

2. You have taught us to use inside voices from kindergarten onward. Please extend the same courtesy to the students you are disciplining so that other students who are learning are not interrupted if you yell at a student in the echoing halls. Please address us calmly, quietly and respectfully as fellow citizens of the high school.

3. Walking in the halls is not a crime, so please do not treat us as though we've already committed one by addressing us in demeaning tones.

Mutual respect can be achieved if the students understand the administration's position and if all the adults understand that we're only trying to get from point A to point B and that the hallway is the only way this can be achieved. We have the spotlight, so let's use it to make some positive changes and remind the community why they take pride in our school.

Shaker, it's time we act our age and represent the school system, which we are so privileged to attend. Adults of the district- it's time you started to treat us like adults, too.

TAKING THE PULSE OF POLICIES

UP AND DOWN STAIRCASES • Though this policy is meant to decrease congestion in over-crowded hallways, it causes students to needlessly wander the building in search of alternative routes.

HALL PASSES • Seniors who move through the building during their free periods, and students who travel to thier satellite lunch locations, do so without passes. How, then, is a security guard to determine who must have a pass? Students who don't want attention from security or teachers should walk the halls quietly.

CELL PHONE RESTRICTIONS • Administrators have repeatedly emphasized that cell phones are not to be on or visible before 4 p.m. Going along with Principal Michael Griffith's theme of community, administrators need to expect adults to follow the same policies.

HEADGEAR • This policy is too wishy-washy; if you don't want students to wear hats in class, do not allow them in any part of the building.

PROFANITY • Probably the biggest gray area of them all, enforcement of the profanity policy tolerates too much offensive language in both classrooms and hallways.

-- Wesley Lowery

ROOM EXCUSE

Name Matt Buder-Shapiro

Grade Sophmore

The hallway situation has drastically improved from last year, although they are still overcrowded. I'm not fond of the up and down staircases [because] they just cause confusion and tardiness.

Shaker Heights City School District

HB-1040

ROOM EXCUSE

Name Jovoni West

Grade Freshman

I think that the halls are OK and that sometimes it can be hard to get to class, but the new [stairs policy] really, really helps. They could be cleaner, but everything else seems to be good about the halls.

HB-1040

Shaker Heights City School District

ROOM EXCUSE

Name Asia Davis

Grade Freshman

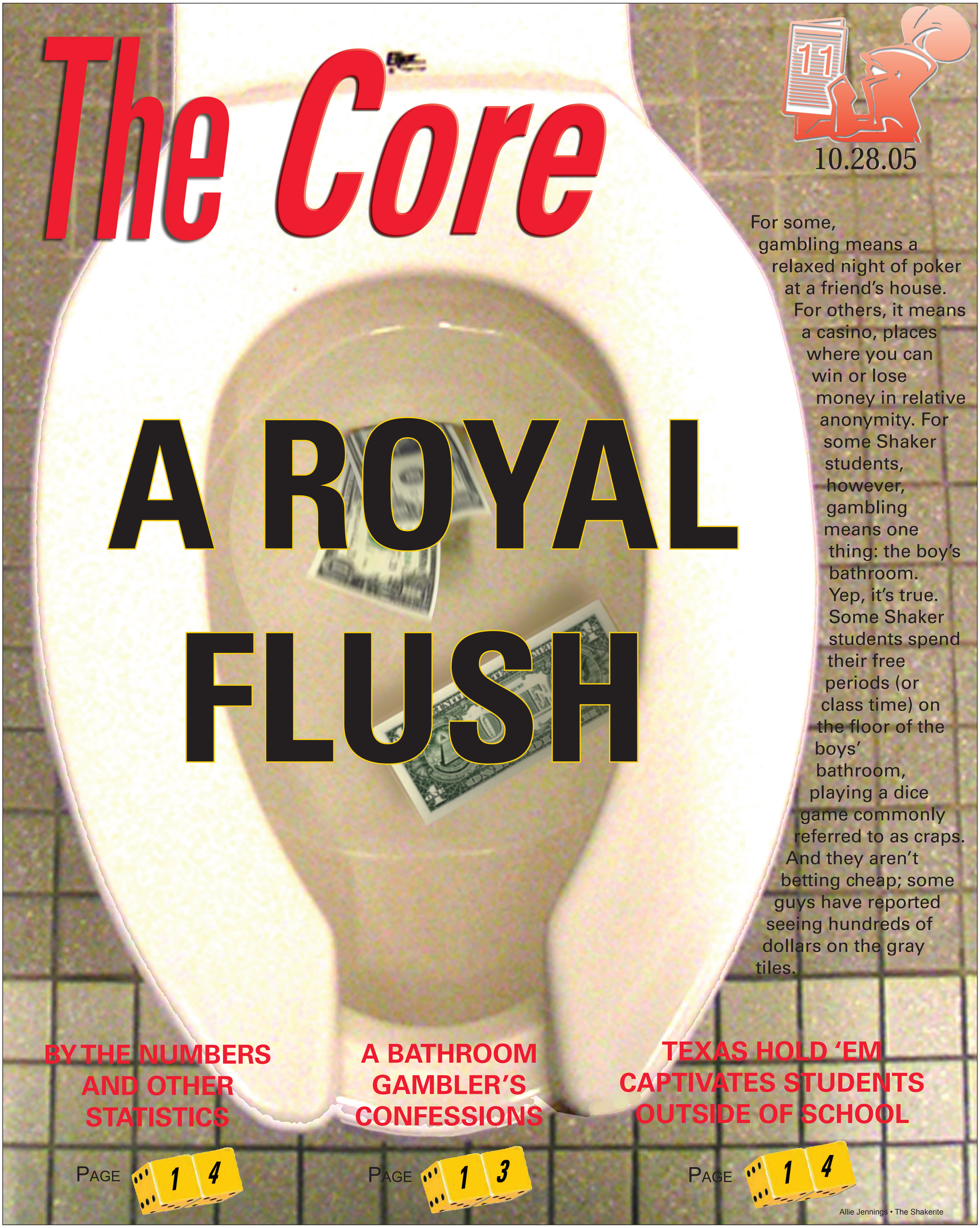
The hallways should be how they were during the first couple weeks of school. I don't really like how the new stairways are assigned, but I've learned to get used to them. I don't like it because I had to make my route to class adaptable to this change. Otherwise I like the hallways. It is like a four-minute social time, since I can't socialize in class.

Shaker Heights City School District

HB-1040

The Core

10.28.05



Allie Jennings • The Shakerite

A ROYAL FLUSH

For some, gambling means a relaxed night of poker at a friend's house. For others, it means a casino, places where you can win or lose money in relative anonymity. For some Shaker students, however, gambling means one thing: the boy's bathroom. Yep, it's true. Some Shaker students spend their free periods (or class time) on the floor of the boys' bathroom, playing a dice game commonly referred to as craps. And they aren't betting cheap; some guys have reported seeing hundreds of dollars on the gray tiles.

BY THE NUMBERS AND OTHER STATISTICS

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A BATHROOM GAMBLER'S CONFESSIONS

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TEXAS HOLD 'EM CAPTIVATES STUDENTS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

PAGE 14

CRAPS IN THE CRAPPER

Students demonstrate the attraction of craps games in the boys' bathrooms.

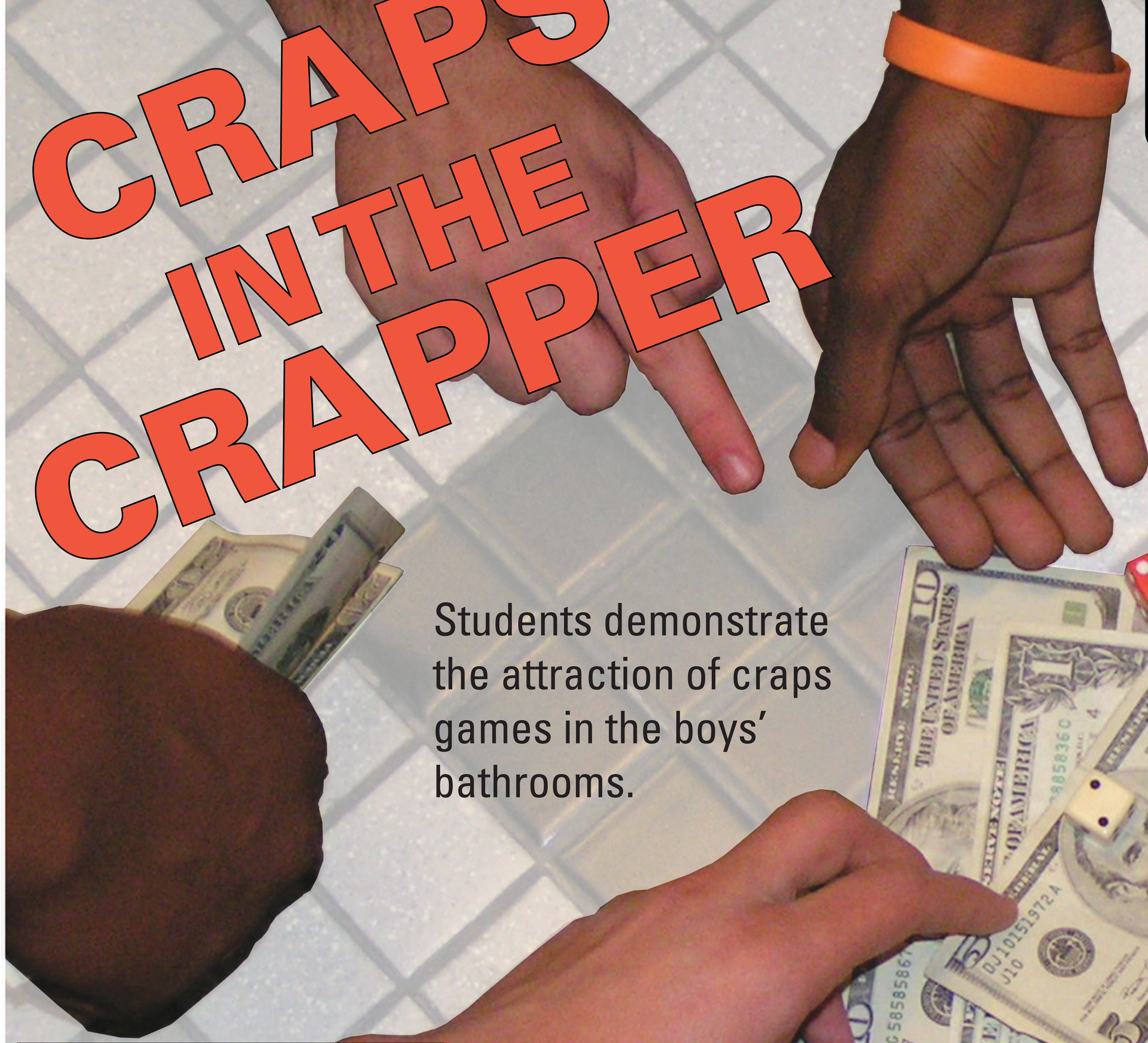


Photo illustration by Dan Snider • The Shakerite

THE LOW DOWN ON SHAKERS' GAMES

If you ever get the chance to walk into a boys' bathroom and see a crowd crouching in a circle on the tile floor, don't get the wrong idea. It's just gambling.

Although high school rules forbid gambling on school property, and Ohio law forbids teens from betting games, Head of Security Victor Ferrell said it's prevalent among some grade levels.

"It's more popular in some classes than others," he said.

Studies have shown the number of youth gamblers is increasing in the United States. A 1999 study done by the National Research Council shows that 80 percent of high school students have reported gambling for money. The study also said 4 to 8 percent of adolescents have a serious gambling problem, with another 10 to 14 percent of adolescents at risk for developing a serious problem.

Research done at McGill University in Canada indicates that having a gambling addiction can be as dangerous as having a drug addiction.

Certain signs indicate a gambling addiction. Ron, a member of Gambler's Anonymous for the past 22 years whose last name is withheld because of the group's policy of anonymity, said in a phone interview the most obvious signs are personality changes and mood swings. He said the person might not actually be angry or upset; they might just be looking for an excuse to get out of the house to go gamble some more.

"There are lotteries everywhere. People do not recognize the seriousness of [gambling]," he said, noting compulsive gambling is recognized as a disease in some medical books.

"There is help once you admit you need it," Ron said. "But [first] you have to admit it!"

Compiled by Caitlin Nielsen

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU GET CAUGHT

For students who enjoy playing cards in the cafeteria or craps in the Egress, the worst outcome would hardly be losing $15.

"Gambling is not tolerated," said Head of Security Victor Ferrell, who noted that suspension is a possible punishment for student gamblers.

The district's Rights and Responsibilities Handbook states, "A student shall not engage in, possess or promote games of chance, place a bet or risk anything on school grounds, on school-provided transportation, at school-sponsored or related school functions off school grounds or any other time the student is subject to school authority. Examples: cards, dice, coins, etc."

Ferrell said the students they have caught gambling tend to be in the same clique and security is aware of who these students are. He characterized them as "generally African-American males."

Principal Michael Griffith determines punishments for these unlucky student gamblers. In addition to the possibility of suspension, punishments may be assigned depending on what else went with the crime, such as cutting a class.

"There are cameras in the back hallways, so students don't tend to go back there," Ferrell said.

Compiled by Caitlin Nielsen

HISTORY OF CRAPS

Although Shaker's version of craps takes place in the restroom, this isn't where the game's name originated. It is actually from an English game called Hazard, in which the losing roll was called "crabs." When the French took up the game, they changed the name to craps.

Compiled by Jason Oscar

CONFESSIONS OF A GAMBLER

Due to the fact that this craps player is illegally playing on school grounds, we have agreed to keep this confession anonymous.

1. When and what do you play during school? Sometimes I'll play tonk, poker or craps at lunch or during class when I don t feel like going.

2. What do you play outside of school? Outside of school I play a lot of Texas hold 'em and other variations of poker games. Just a bunch of my friends get together and play. We don t have a specific spot. We just go wherever we can.

3. Have you ever gotten caught playing, and if so, what was the punishment? I've only gotten caught once playing cards in the lunch room during my lunch period. I didn't get much of a punishment. My cards just got taken away.

4. Why do you play during school? I play because it distracts me from the school day and I've just always liked playing card games. I like the thrill of a really intense game.

5. How did you find out about the card games you play? I found out about these games from my friends who played. I just learned how to play like a year ago.

6. Do you play for money? How much? I play for money most of the time. The amount depends on the game. The most I've ever played for tonk is a $50 game, the most I've played for in poker was a $25 buy-in tournament and the most for craps was probably $50 also.

Compiled by Sarah Brandon

WHEN YOU WANT TO GET IN THE GAME

In case you ever want to participate (but remember, it's illegal to play at school), here are step-by-step instructions.

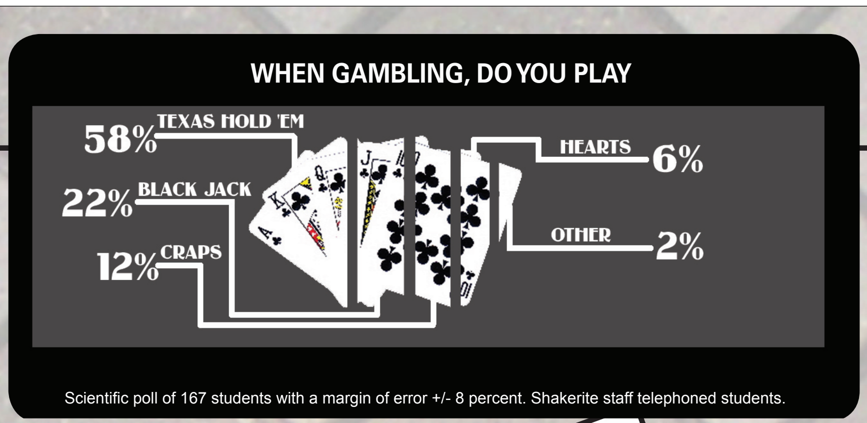
1. Any player makes a "pass line" bet, which means he thinks the roller will win. Players can bet "don't pass," which means they think the roller will lose, but players usually choose a pass line bet. The value of the bets varies.
2. After bets are placed, the roller makes the "come out roll," in which he rolls the two dice. If he rolls a seven, or in craps lingo "a natural," he wins, but if he rolls a 2, 3 or 12 (craps) he loses. If he gets any other number he earns his point.
3. If 12 is rolled, the same roller continues with a new round of betting and people who made the "don't pass" bet collect. If a 7 is rolled, players who made a "pass line" bet are paid and the same roller continues. If neither is rolled, the roller continues trying to get his point.
4. The goal of the game is to roll the point before rolling the seven. If the point is successfully rolled the roller wins and both he and people who made a pass line bet get paid. If seven is rolled the player "sevened-out," a new roller takes the dice and people who made a "don't pass" bet get paid. The game lasts until a player wins all of the money.
5. New roller goes through steps 1 - 4

WORD BANK:

Pass line bet - betting the roller will win
Don't pass bet - betting the roller will lose
Come out roll - the first roll of a roller's turn
Craps - rolling 2,3 or 12 on the come out roll, automatic loss
Natural - rolling a seven on the come out roll, automatic win
Point - any other number than 2, 3, 7 or 12
"Sevening-out"- rolling a seven before rolling your point

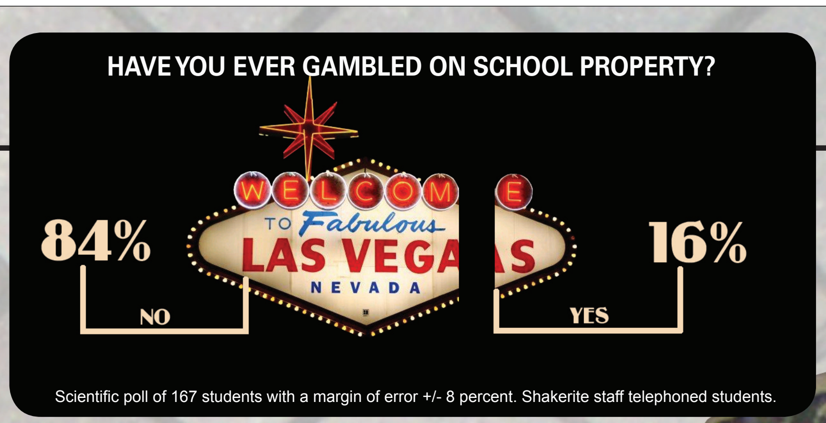
Compiled by Jason Oscar

WHEN GAMBLING, DO YOU PLAY



Scientific poll of 167 students with a margin of error +/- 8 percent. Shakerite staff telephoned students.

HAVE YOU EVER GAMBLED ON SCHOOL PROPERTY?



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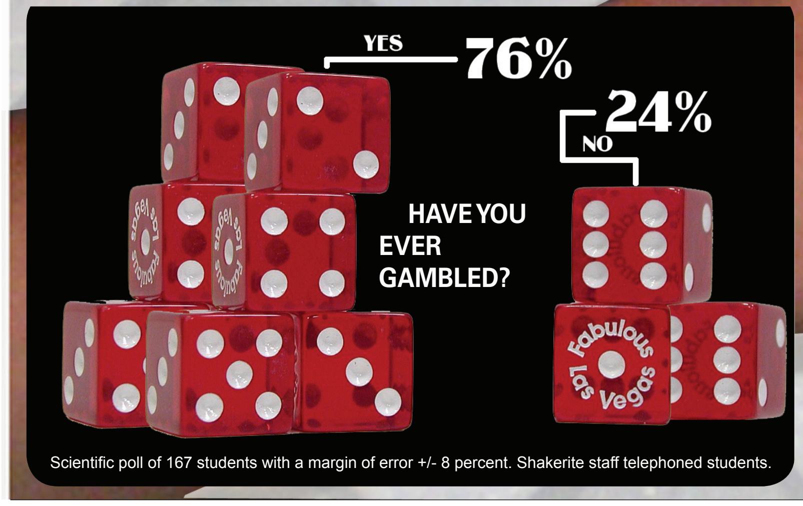
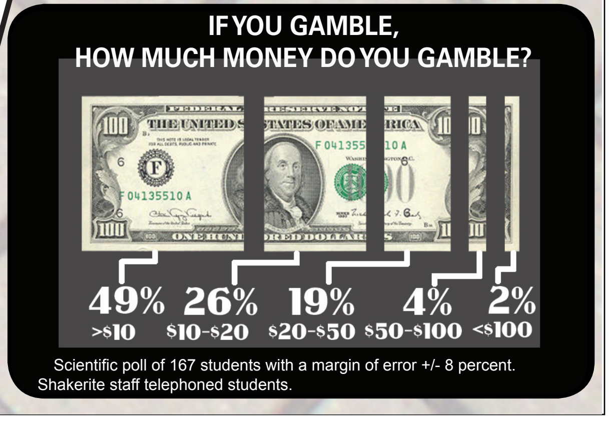


Scientific poll of 167 students with a margin of error +/- 8 percent. Shakerite staff telephoned students.

IF YOU GAMBLE, HOW MUCH MONEY DO YOU GAMBLE?



Scientific poll of 167 students with a margin of error +/- 8 percent. Shakerite staff telephoned students.

Polls by Bobby O'Connor • The Shakerite

HOLD 'EM CRAZE HITS SHAKER

• Junior Andrew Kawalek exemplifies current card trend

Photo Illustration by Dan Snider • The Shakerite

CARDS AND CHIPS in hand, Andrew Kawalek, a junior Texas hold 'em fan, demonstrates how to play one of the most popular poker games in the country. Kawalek also plays online and watches "Celebrity Texas Hold 'Em" on Bravo.

BY SARAH BRANDON
THE CORE EDITOR

Whether it's virtual or live, Texas hold 'em is the game for Andrew Kawalek.

The junior's weekends are often devoted to versions of this popular poker game.

"It's fun, easy and perfect to play with friends on the weekends." he said.

For Kawalek and his friends, games usually start around 8 or 9 p.m. and last up to three hours. When he's not calling or folding, Kawalek is busy watching poker on TV or playing it on the Internet.

"My favorite show on TV is 'Celebrity Texas Hold 'Em,'" he said.

Texas hold 'em is one of the most popular poker games. The game is so widely played that Youth Ending Hunger held a fund-raising Texas hold 'em tournament in the high school cafeteria last spring.

"Celebrity Texas Hold 'Em" is a charity poker game starring various stars and filmed live at the Palms Casino in Las Vegas. Each tournament features five games with five celebrity players who compete to win $250,000 for to the charity of their choice. It airs on Bravo.

If he can't find a game with friends, Kawalek isn't disappointed.

"I also like to play poker online. It's called PartyPoker.net," he said.

Started by Mike Sexton, world famous poker player, Party Poker is the largest online poker room in the world, with more than 150,000 players.

Kawalek loves not only the game, but also the money involved.

"Of course we play with money; if we didn't, it wouldn't be as fun," he said.

Kawalek and his friends put in $5 a game. The winner of each game takes in $25-30.

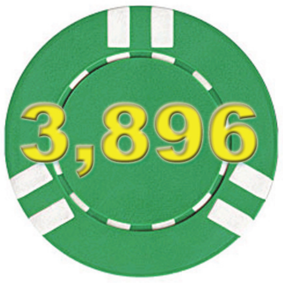
"I'll win a couple games and then lose a couple games, so I usually win as much money as I put into the game," he said.

POPULAR GAMES

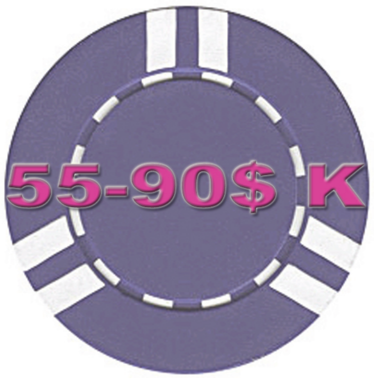
Blackjack • try to get the combined value of your cards closest to 21 without going over.
Poker • game in which players wager for their combined bets.
Texas hold 'em • type of poker with a fixed betting order; used for the World Series of Poker. Each player gets two cards facedown, and all players share five face-up cards to make best poker hand by combining them with their two.
Tonk • five-card game in which players try to have the lowest total card value.

Compiled by Lauren Weiss from http://en.wikipedia.org

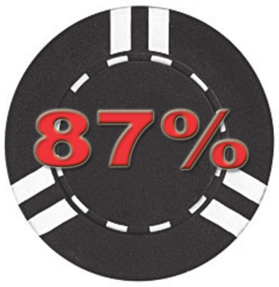
by the #'s



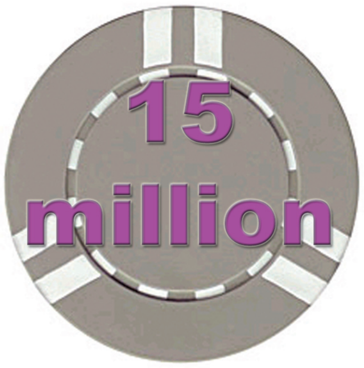
active table games in Las Vegas.



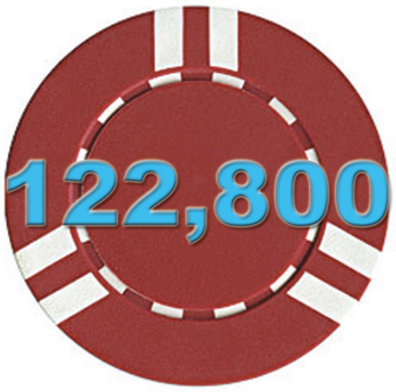
average debt of male gamblers.



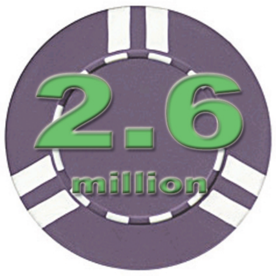
of Americans in 2005 who visited Las Vegas gambled.



people have some type of gambling addiction.



slot machines in Las Vegas.



possible poker hands.

Compiled by Sarah Brandon

FAST FACTS

CLEVELAND CASINOS

• A coalition of government and private interests is working to draft a **ballot proposal that would put casinos in Ohio, including two new sites in Cleveland** and expanded gambling at two horseracing tracks in the area. The proposal is slated for the November 2006 election.

• Supporters of the proposal include Cleveland **Mayor Jane Campbell**, who is running for reelection this November. Her proposal would give local agencies control of casinos. City Council President **Frank Jackson**, Campbell's opponent, **opposes** the plan.

• Estimates by Strategic Partner Management Consulting of Clarkston, Mich., suggested that **casinos could bring in $1.2 billion for the Cleveland area** and $4 billion for the state. They also estimated that 43,267 jobs would be created statewide, in addition to 40,000 "spin-off" jobs (for example, hotels would see increased business and would hire more support staff).

• However, opponents of the proposal point to estimates such as an analysis done by the Maxine Goodman College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University, which suggested that **casinos would create 109,000 new problem gamblers** who would incur $29.7 million in treatment costs.

• Currently, **Ohio law states that gambling is illegal if done in public** or if done so that a business would profit from it. Gambling is defined as games of chance, such as poker or craps, and does not include horseracing or bingo.

• **Ohioans defeated ballot initiatives to allow gambling** in 1988 and 1996.

Compiled by Lauren Weiss

Want to find some really awesome murals in Cleveland? Check out the huge piece in Little Italy, or the lovely "Joy" painting on Lee Road. To see a collection of alternative murals, take the red and blue rapid lines; along the way, massive spray paint works from local graffiti artists cover the walls. On the way downtown you will see whales and scuba divers covering the Cleveland Public Power building. To view a gorgeous indoor mural, take a look at Ora Coltman's "Dominance of the City," located on the third floor of the Cleveland Public Library.

"This convicted rapist and purveyor of pornographic, misogynistic, homophobic, profanity-drenched song lyrics does not belong on the walls of this institution."
Natalie Sekicky • journalism and English Teacher

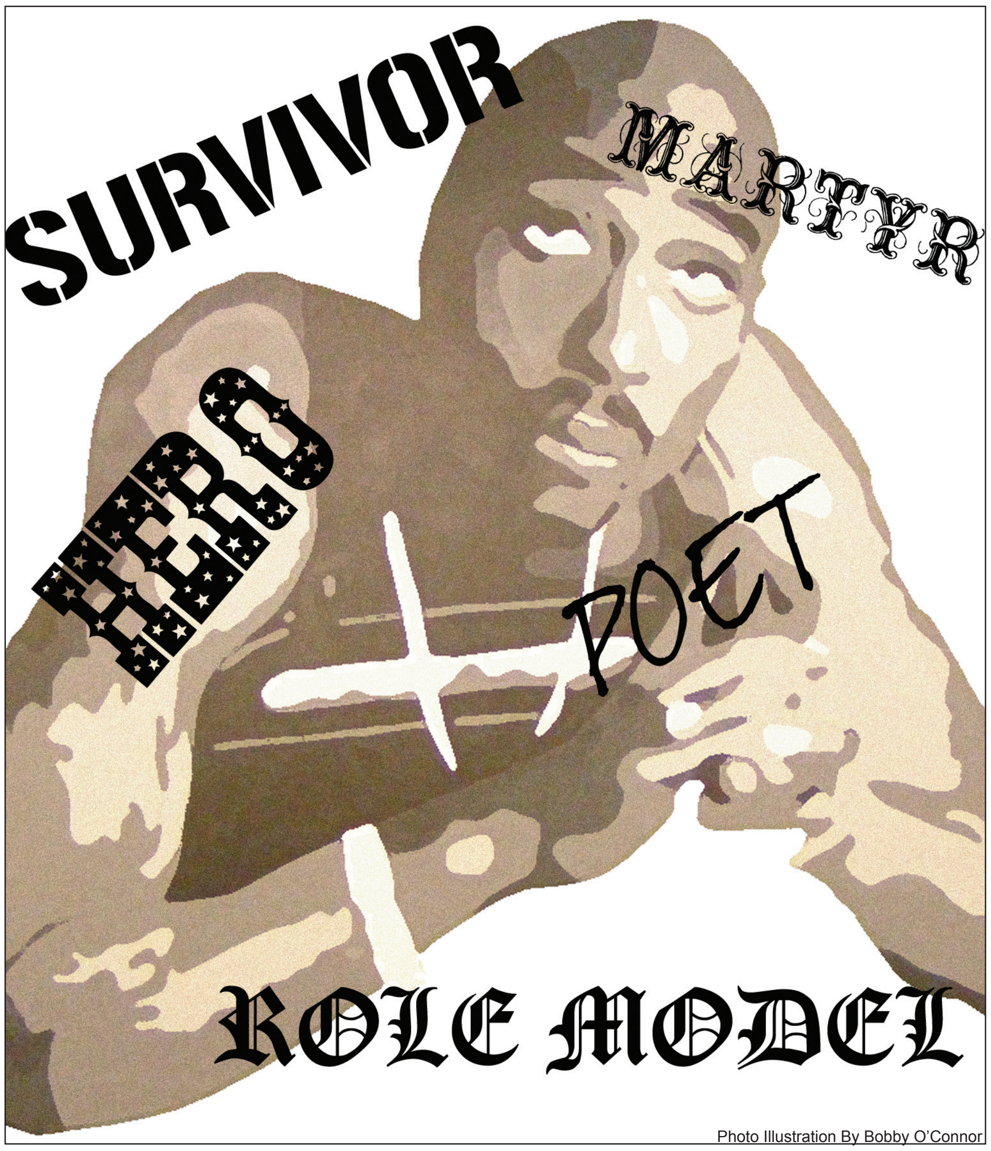


Photo Illustration By Bobby O'Connor

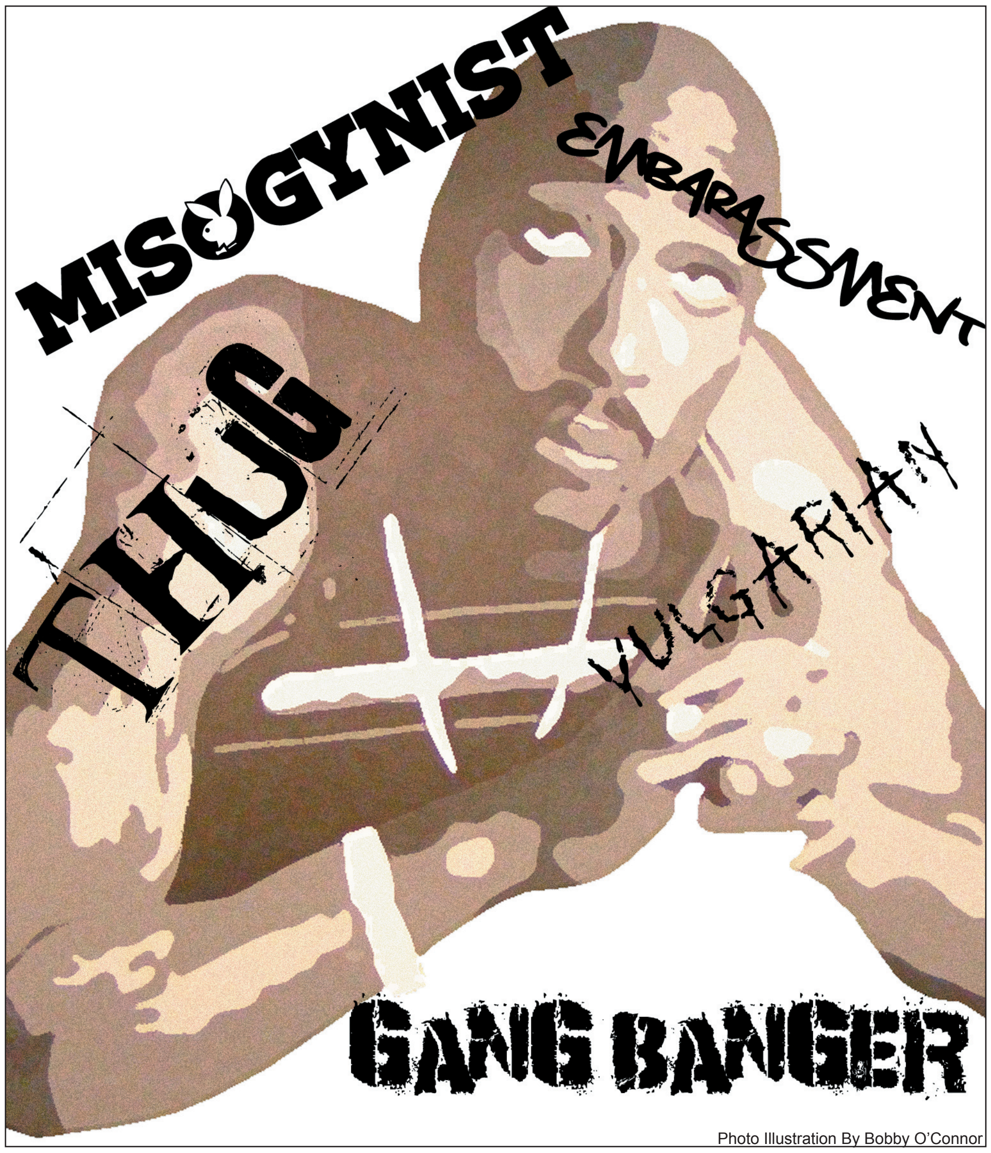


Photo Illustration By Bobby O'Connor

"I disagreed with the controversy. I thought it was unfair. The mural portrayed positive quotes"
Isaiah Tunkara • '05 Mural Artist

SENIOR MURALS RAISE MORAL CONCERNS

BY SIMONE DUVAL
STAFF REPORTER

They are watching you.

They follow your every move. In the halls, the cafeteria and even in classrooms. They wonder if they, too, will someday be questioned for the image they portray.

Murals are no strangers to Shaker hallways. Seniors often create these works of art for their senior projects. But this summer, one mural created controversy and raised concern about the message murals are projecting to Shaker's students, staff and visitors.

Natalie Sekicky, journalism and English teacher, expressed her concerns at the presence of Tupac Shakur on a senior project mural.

"This convicted rapist and purveyor of pornographic, misogynistic, homophobic, profanity-drenched song lyrics does not belong on the walls of this institution," Sekicky stated in her editorial in the May edition of the Shaker Heights Teacher Assoc. newsletter.

The mural, which also depicts Ray Charles and Bob Marley, is on the wall above the lockers near the guidance office. It is visible to people who enter the school through the front doors, and includes an inspirational quote from each artist.

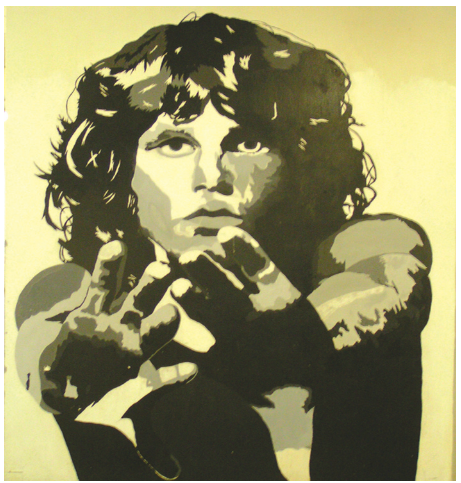
All senior projects begin with submission of a declaration of interest form for consideration by a committee of teachers and administrators. If a senior chooses to do a mural, their project must go through another analysis.

"The Art Department approves the subject of the mural with the administration," said math teacher Walt Slovikovski, a senior project director.

Daniel Whitely, an art teacher, has some input in the approval of senior projects, especially murals and art projects. He said he was approached five years ago by a student who wanted to paint a mural of Shakur.

"I felt at the time he was a bad influence," Whitely said.

However, Whitely said he felt differently about Shakur when artists Arvel Myles and Isaiah Tunkara ('05) got in touch with him to discuss their plan.



Dan Snider • The Shakerite

JIM MORRISON, LEAD singer of the classic rock band the Doors, is another controversial figure on the walls of the high school. Morrison was a popular lyricist and singer, but was arrested for appearing naked on stage and died of a drug overdose.

"The students who introduced the project were sincere and committed to put up a piece for their peers in the hallway," Whitely said, "and we tried to focus on the quotes, which would be a positive note."

The quote on the Shakur mural states, "I know it seems hard sometimes, but remember one thing. Through every dark night, there's a bright day after that. So no matter how hard it gets, keep your head up and handle it."

Whitely's early resistance and Sekicky's current criticism of Shakur's image illustrate the complexity of immortalizing a person on a school wall. Other senior murals depict Jimi Hendrix, Jim Morrison and John Lennon. The three musicians could easily be challenged as appropriate role models for students. Hendrix and Morrison died of drug overdoses after angering older generations with their music and lifestyles. A former Beatle, Lennon infuriated some by staying in bed with his wife for seven days in a hotel room in order to protest the Vietnam War.

Tunkara and Myles painted and airbrushed the three-part mural. They intended it to be viewed as a positive painting that represented overcoming obstacles.

"We wanted to do something different," said Myles, who now attends Cuyahoga County Community College.

"We wanted to have the best mural up there," said Tunkara, a future student at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh.

After they finished the mural, Tunkara and Myles said they received positive feedback from their friends. They said students appeared to like their painting, and everyone seemed to appreciate it.

"The first time I came back, I disagreed with the controversy. I thought it was unfair. The mural portrayed positive quotes," Tunkara said.

Still, Sekicky isn't backing down.

"I'll stick to my guns on this one," she said.

New country lacks old country flare

KATE GUESS

Country isn't a genre of music or a trend you can follow and discard when it's out. Country is a state of mind. Most people think country is cowboy boots, rodeo and the Confederate flag. That's the problem with "new" country – they've forgotten what country is and have ceased to be anything but wailing western Beyonces.

Country is about the smell of 4 a.m. and worn leather; it's about sweating blood and living hard. Old country songs were about bad break-ups, crime, love and staying tough.

New country songs lack the rebel sneer and casual grace of old country. I doubt a majority of the new country artists know who Remington and Louis L'Amour are. I doubt a majority of people reading this know either, so take notes. Frederic Remington was an American artist who painted scenes of the West in the late 19 century. Louis L'Amour has been a popular writer of Western adventure novels for more than 50 years.

Now, country is all about trucks and tractors (instead of horses and cattle), parties and one-night-stands (instead of solitude and settling down) and cities (not wilderness). New country artists don't have dust in their eyes and gravel in their guts, and most seem more concerned about how they look than remembering the roots of real country.

The country of Willie Nelson and Johnny Cash is a dying breed; a culture of respect and pride is being replaced by the glitzy trash of the media. Country sold out to The Man. Most songs could be bumper stickers: "No Shirt, No Shoes, No Problem," "Redneck Woman" and "Save a Horse, Ride a Cowboy."

Real country, old country, has a soul you can't fake, a truth you can't wear and an attitude you can't buy. And the song titles are definitely not things you would see on the back of an SUV.

CLOSET COWBOYS IN THE SUBURBS

Country fans in Shaker? More than you think . . .

BY JULIA VICTOR
STAFF REPORTER

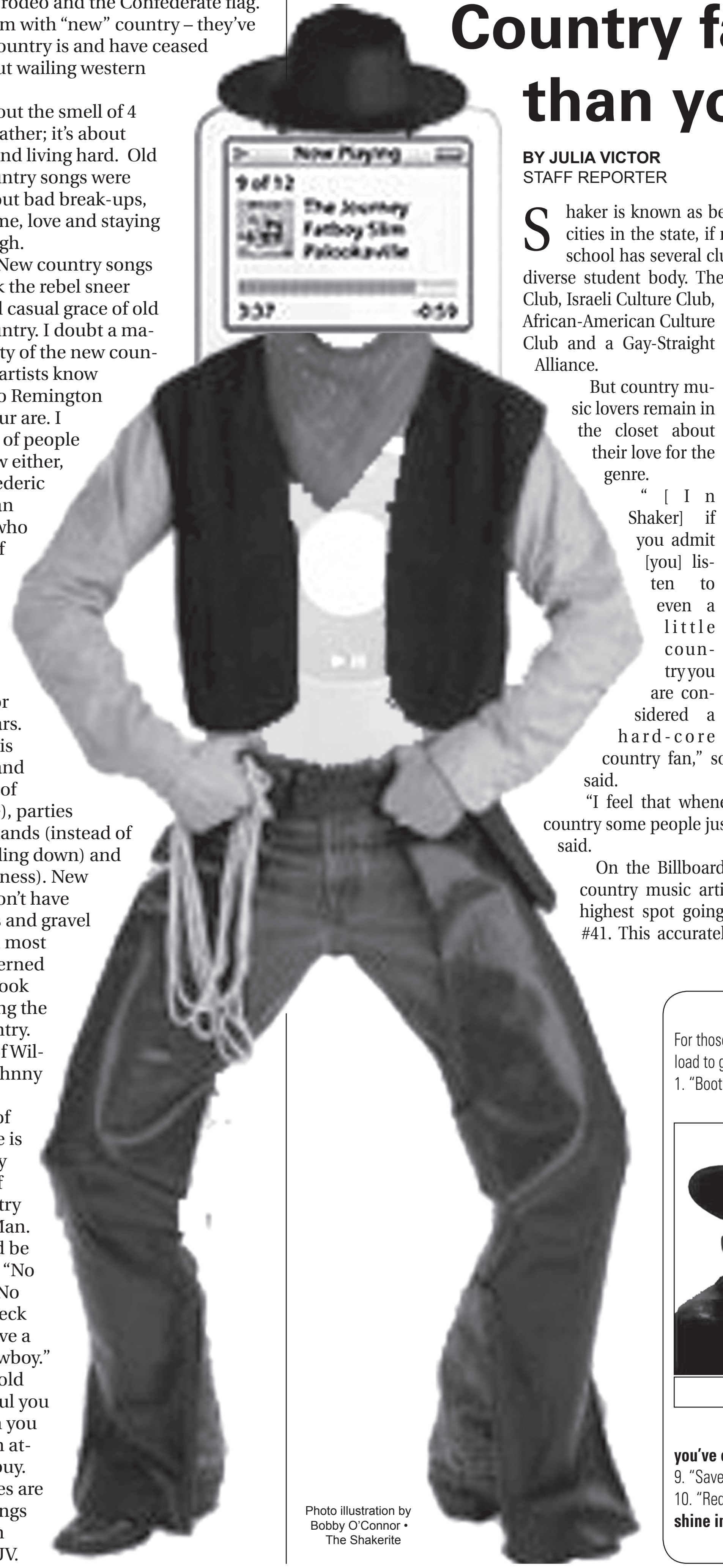


Photo illustration by Bobby O'Connor • The Shakerite

Shaker is known as being one of the most diverse cities in the state, if not the nation, and the high school has several clubs to meet the needs of the diverse student body. There is a Latin Club, Spanish Club, Israeli Culture Club, African-American Culture Club and a Gay-Straight Alliance.

But country music lovers remain in the closet about their love for the genre.

"[In Shaker] if you admit [you] listen to even a little country you are considered a hard-core country fan," sophomore Catherine Phelps said.

"I feel that whenever I admit to listening to country some people just look at me and laugh," she said.

On the Billboard Hot 100 list there are five country music artists in the top 50, with the highest spot going to Montgomery Gentry at #41. This accurately depicts the Shaker music culture with almost the whole list dominated by hip-hop, R&B and pop artists.

"Yes, I do listen to country," said Phelps.

She is part of the surprisingly large minority of students who listen to country on a regular basis.

"My family is really into country. I grew up on it in my house," she said.

Junior Molly Fisher is also a country music fan.

"I like Rascal Flatts because they have a unique style and the vocalist is different than any other. He is talented because he isn't fake with his voice. They are like country/rock," she said.

Phelps said some of her favorite country musical artists are Toby Keith and Tim McGraw.

"I like Toby Keith because his songs are so funny and Tim McGraw is really hot," Phelps said.

"To be a country music fan you have to admit that you listen to country and not be afraid to listen to it in public," she said.

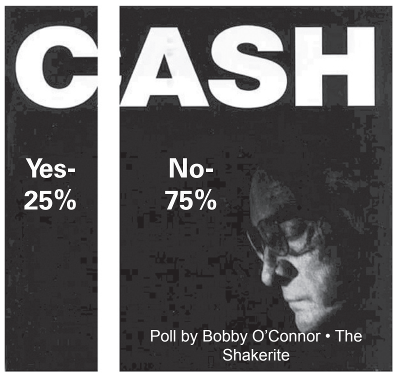
Fisher said country music's image as music of farmers and cowboys might make students reluctant to admit enjoying it, but defined a Shaker fan as one who appreciates the music, not necessarily the stereotypical culture.

"[A country fan in Shaker] is someone who listens to 94.9 and 99.5 and watches CMT," said Fisher.

"I mean it's not a person who walks around in overalls and a cowboy hat. We are country music wannabes," she added.

"We just don't live that country life."

DO YOU LIKE COUNTRY MUSIC?



Poll by Bobby O'Connor • The Shakerite

Scientific poll of 167 students with a margin of error of +/- 8 percent. Shakerite editors telephoned students.

TOP 10 COUNTRY SONGS FOR BEGINNERS

For those of you who want to better acquaint yourselves with country music, here are 10 songs you should download to get started. From Johnny Cash to Toby Keith, they represent a short but varied tour of the genre.

1. "Boot Scootin' Boogey," Brooks & Dunn • The classic cowboy dance song. **Everybody puts on cowboots and line dances to this sucker.**
2. "A Boy Named Sue," Johnny Cash • A hilarious song about **a boy and his search for his good-for-nothing father.**
3. "I Love this Bar," Toby Keith • An ode to a bar and its patrons.
4. "Whiskey River," Willie Nelson • **The ultimate break-up song** -- for when you're alone and you don't want to remember her.
5. "Hurt," Johnny Cash • One of the last songs Cash recorded before his death; **a cover of the NIN song** about a heroine addiction.
6. "Where the Green Grass Grows," Tim McGraw • For when you're **driving with all the windows down** and the sun is out.
7. "Ghost in this House," Alison Kraus • Guaranteed to **make you cry**; Kraus sings about being forgotten by someone you love.
8. "She Thinks my Tractor's Sexy," Kenny Chesney • **Any stereotype you've ever heard** about country music fans is in it. A tribute to a man's tractor and how is affects his love life.
9. "Save a Horse, Ride a Cowboy," Big & Rich • The name says it all. It's a **great dance track.**
10. "Redneck Woman," Gretchen Wilson • This is a "new country" song that has **more country in it than moonshine in the hills**. Hit No.1 on the country Billboard chart.

JOHNNY CASH

Compiled by Kate Guess and Liz Kantor

A SUBURBANITE'S GUIDE TO COUNTRY

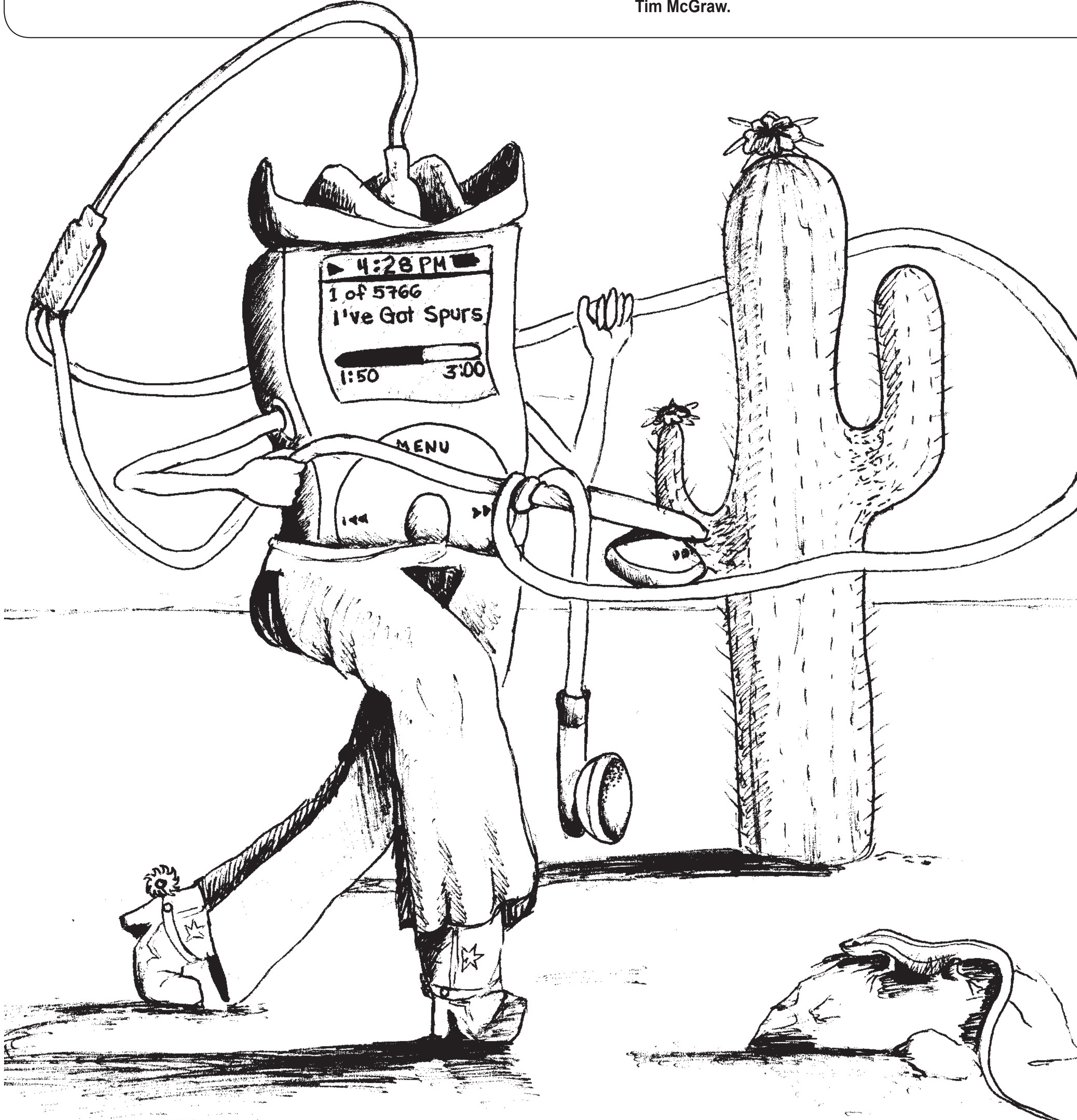
COUNTRY AND HIP-HOP COMBINED?

Country and hip-hop couldn't be more different, but somehow they have mixed to form "hick-hop" or "hill-hop." According to a 2004 National Public Radio story, it began when prisoners from city jails were transferred to rural jails in Appalachia. Two white volunteers, hoping to ease the racial tension within the prison, mixed country and hip-hop to create hick-hop. The Appalshop, an arts center, features a weekly hick-hop radio show. Famous hick-hop artists are Cowboy Troy, Big and Rich and The Killaz. Big and Rich went on tour with Tim McGraw in 2004, making McGraw one of the first to combine true country and hick-hop.

AN EXCERPT FROM COWBOY TROY'S "I PLAY CHICKEN WITH THE TRAIN"

Boy you done fell and bumped your head
Uh huh that's what they said
People said it's impossible,
Not probable, too radical
But I already been on the CMA's
Hell Tim McGraw said he like the change
And he likes the way my hick-hop sounds
And the way the crowd screams when I stomp the ground
I'm big and black, clickety-clack
And I make the train jump the track like that

COWBOY TROY, WHOSE real name is Troy Coleman, toured with Tim McGraw.



Joanna Mitchell • The Shakerite

WESTERN EXPANSION: THE EVOLUTION OF COUNTRY MUSIC

May 1924 • Vernon Dalhart has the **first nationwide country hit**, "The Wreck of the Old '97."
August 1925 • "Cowboy Songs" is recorded by Victor Records.

Hank Williams

Aug. 1, 1927 • Ralph Peer, an executive for Victor Records, signs the Carter Family and Jimmie Rogers.**Recorded country music** becomes more widespread.
1931 • **Gene Autry**, nicknamed "America's favorite singing cowboy," releases his first record. Later, he **owns the California Angels.**
1939 • "The Grand Ole Opry" debuts on NBC.
1945 • **Nashville** becomes the center of country music.
1960s • "New Nashville Sound" emerges. **Female singers** begin to record country hits.
1961 • Jimmie Rodgers, Fred Rose and **Hank Williams** are the first people inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame.
1964 • Charley Pride becomes the **first African-American country music star.**

Charley Pride

1969 • "Hee Haw," a TV show that mixed country music and comedy sketches, debuts
1976 • **Willie Nelson** creates the Outlaw movement (a.k.a. Austin sound).
1980s • New Country (a.k.a. "countrypolitan") emerges.
1983 • Nashville Network and **Country Music Television** debut.
1990s • **Country artists**, such as Garth Brooks, Shania Twain, Tim McGraw and Faith Hill, gain international fame as **crossover country/pop performers.**

Faith Hill

Compiled from the Library of Congress website

HOW TO BE AN URBAN COWBOY

Recently, cowboy hats have capped pop culture. Serving as umbrellas that protect their owners from rain, sun or fashion police. The felt hats' shapes are region-specific and often called Stetson's, in honor of John B. Stetson, who is credited with their creation. A visit to eBay.com revealed 2,213 cowboy hats available, with the most expensive going for $250.

The button-down broadcloth shirts of the 1980s and the grungy plaid flannels of the 1990s have given way to decorative stitching and embroidered flowers are suddenly everywhere. At Target, one of the first junior section displays features a few different styles of cowboy shirts. Although called "voile" shirts, the style is clearly country.

Cowboy boots are clomping across more and more floors these days. From the cheap to the ridiculous, these fashion statements can be yours for $20 or more than $600 (for Luchesse boots). The tall leather boots -- created for horseback riding -- have high heels to catch on stirrups and smooth leather soles that make easy work out of slipping out of those stirrups. You might want to cut cowboy season short around here; the same qualities that make for safe stirrup use will likely cause injury or worse as you navigate Shaker's icy sidewalks.

Compiled by Liz Kantor

I know my pants are tight, but no, I'm not gay

"Damn, those pants are tight!"

It's an interesting hallway for those young men who journey in stretch jeans. The ongoing laughs, comments and pathetic attacks on your manhood are daily occurrences.

For some reason a large part of the student body at Shaker feels they have some right to comment daily on my clothes.

JOSH DAVIDSON

These remarks just don't make sense. Why would anyone care enough to make the effort to ridicule my fashion choices? I don't walk the halls commenting on how your white T is rather large or how your Abercrombie shorts look like they recently emerged from a paper shredder.

My jeans are not here to offend you. I just like the way they look.

In any Shaker day, I see plenty of fashion statements that strike me as funny or even ridiculous. Yet, I do nothing except laugh to myself and keep walking. I don't stop in the middle of the hallway, turn around and loudly announce my feelings about your outfit.

But the comments about how my jeans fit pale when compared to how suddenly so many people have defined my sexuality. Just the other day when I was walking home from school with a fellow stretch-jeans wearer, I heard, "Man, I can't stand gay people."

I know it's perplexing. With my "girl pants" on, it's almost impossible to think otherwise. Really, how could a guy whose pants aren't falling down be heterosexual?

Yet, I'm not going to yell out to some kid wearing baggy pants and a tie-dye shirt, "I hate stoners." That is an assumption that shouldn't be made at all, let alone based on clothing. And being gay isn't about what clothes you wear, the music you listen to or the people you hang out with; it's an identity that transcends those categories.

Clothes supposedly make the man, but they certainly do not determine your sexuality. There is not a homosexual dress code, nor a heterosexual one.

Nobody walks through the hallway saying, "Check out that straight kid is his polo shirt." For all anyone knows, the most ordinarily dressed person could be gay, and I'm that kid in those "faggy" stretch jeans and I am, to many people's surprise, straight.

(Then again, that kid's hateful comment isn't surprising; homosexuality does not get the best rap at this school. Last year many Gay-Straight Alliance flyers were defaced with huge "GET SAVED" slogans. Shaker, a school that strives for excellence in education, diversity and acceptance, doesn't even try to educate students about homophobia).

And im not the only one. Even the Gap is starting to sell tight jeans for men. This doesn't mean that every Gap shopper at Beachwood place is homsexual does it?

Think about it, all you social commentators -- I don't care. Just keep your comments to yourself. The laughs are fine; I'm glad that I'm providing some enjoyment during the monotonous days we spend at school. But stop being so ignorant. My clothes aren't anything more than clothes.

Everyone tries to do his own thing with clothes at Shaker; I'm just trying to do mine.

ART MUSEUM OVERHAUL

•Renovations cause World Experience, Area Studies to change curriculum

NATALIA CABRERA
STAFF REPORTER

In Rooms 304 and 306 World Experience students slip on their gloves to examine artwork from Ancient Greece and Rome, allowing them to dive into the past and try to get a glimpse of those cultures.

As they inspect pottery created thousands of years ago,the students make connections to their classroom. Junior Kelly McCord, who is enrolled in World Experience this year, said that the students can actually handle the art themselves, which is prohibited inside the art museum.

During previous years, the World Experience students visited the art museum and toured galleries displaying art from the areas they studied. Senior Makeda Farley, who took the class last year, said that her class went to the museum about three times per semester. By viewing the art created by different cultures, the students could compare their aesthetics, she said.

"I think the visits to the museum add tremendously to the class," said Dana Noble, who has been teaching the class since 1992. "Looking at and thinking about the art that a culture produces says so much about that culture."

Currently, however, the permanent collection galleries are closed due to a $258 million remodeling and expansion. The galleries will reopen gradually over the next few years.

Themes for Arts to Go program:
- Journey to Asia
- Let's Discover Egypt
- Ancient Americas
- Cool Knights
- Diego Rivera
- Early America: Artistry of a Young Nation
- Classical Art: Ancient Greece and Rome
- Journey to Africa

Adam Maraschky • The Shakerite

Rasha Foster, a student in this year's Area Studies class, said the artwork adds to the class and is helpful in understanding the country. "Without the art, you wouldn't get the full visual," Foster said.

With the main section of the art museum closed, students in Area Studies and World Experience must use what they have. Noble is unsatisfied with this years situation. "Much is regrettably lost in not being in the presence of the art," Noble said.

To allow continued access to the collection, some works are now transportable as part of the Art to Go program. This program allows the museum's staff and trained volunteer teachers to visit classrooms and share genuine works of art with students.

World Experience students aren't the only ones who are affected by the gallery closing. Asian Studies students in the past have also visited the museum to better absorb the culture through the artwork of the country they are studying.

Terry Pollack along with Noble teach the Area Studies class, which meets every Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m,and is open to any student who wishes to study Asia.

Although the students cannot go to the museum itself, the lessons they are taught may have changed for the better. In previous years the museum staff had to base their curriculam for the students' lessons on the artwork being displayed in the museum. Now, because they bring the art to the schools, the staff has more freedom in what they teach.

UNDERGROUND CONCERT LIST

Nov. 5- Dub is a Weapon
Beachland Ballroom $18 (advance) $20 (day of show)
Dub music is a form of reggae in which the all the instruments are echoed via mixing. Dub is a Weapon took this process of recording and brought it to the live stage. Their guitarist mixes the echoes of each song before the crowd every night.

Nov. 10- The Briefs, Sex Crimes
Grog Shop $10
The Briefs are possibly the best punk band out there today. Coming from Seattle they combined the sound of punk classics like the Buzzcocks and the Weirdos.

THE BRIEFS

Nov. 12- Tech N9ne, Cutt Calhoun, Chris Calico
Peabody's $15 (advance) $20 (day of Show)
Tech N9ne is a rapper from Kansas City who is known to have one of the craziest live shows in rap music. Tech N9ne's raps feature diverse beats and rhythms, and he performs with great energy.

CARLOS JONES P.L.U.S. BAND

Nov. 18- JiMiller Band, Carlos Jones and P.L.U.S. the Band
Grog Shop $10
This is a showcase of two of the best local bands Cleveland has to offer. Carlos Jones P.L.U.S. Band is a reggae band with influences ranging from Bob Marley to the Grateful Dead. JiMiller Band is the best jam group in the Cleveland area; they amaze crowds with their jam capabilities, often covering Greatful Dead classics.

Photos compiled from:
http://www.klotografie.de/photos4.html#
http://www.carlosjones.com/images/seannew1.jpg
Concert List Compiled By Josh Davidson

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The Beat

10.28.05

This month we chose to publish "Seen in the Stalls" as a humorous collection of our favorite "art" in the restrooms. However, while we think the things already written are funny, writing on school property is vandalism and is prosecutable by law. "Seen in the Stalls" will most likely be only a one-time publication because we don't want to encourage students to vandalize school property. Keep writing funny notes to each other in class and saying random stuff in the hallway, but please do not write or draw on the lovely bathroom stalls.

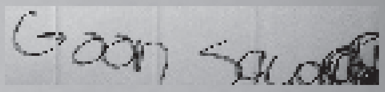
SEEN IN THE STALLS

The time has come for an ode to Shaker grafitti. We know you heart "Heard in the Halls," so now we bring you "Seen in the Stalls." With lots of help from our secret custodial connection, we've found you the best quotes, the most random words, and even stuff you haven't seen because you don't go in the other side's restrooms.

Compiled by Miriam Moore and Kate Guess

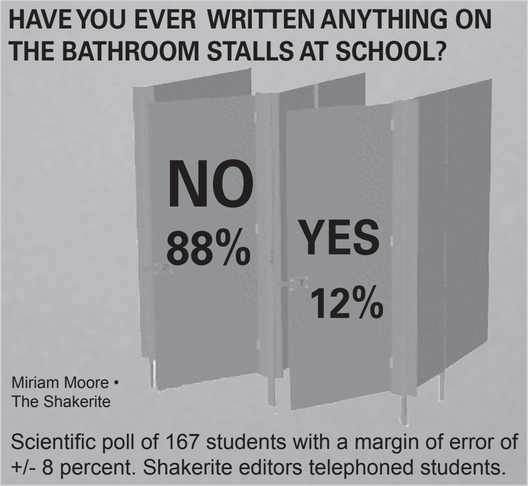
Miriam: I drew those in second grade.

Kate: Light as a feather, stiff as a board...



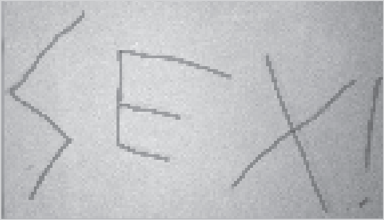
Miriam: Are they like the Ghostbusters? Only busting, um, people?

Kate: That is quite possibly the most unthreatning term I have ever seen.



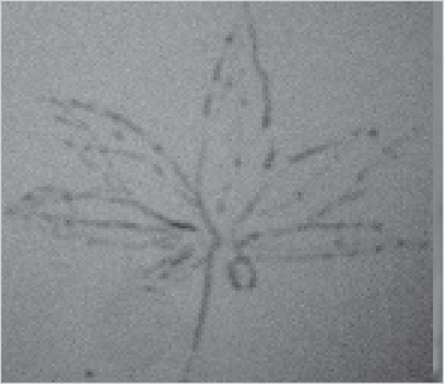
Miriam Moore • The Shakerite

Scientific poll of 167 students with a margin of error of +/- 8 percent. Shakerite editors telephoned students.



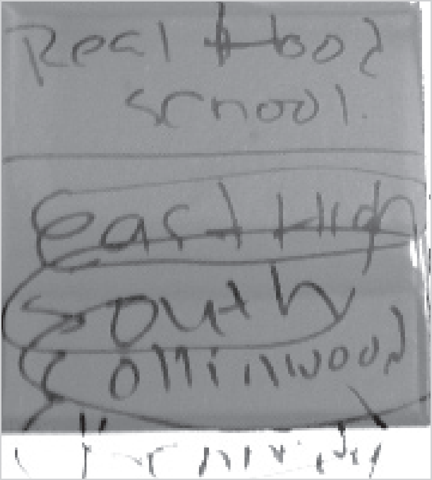
Miriam: Cool guy.

Kate: That's not awkward at all; I don't know what you're talking about.



Miriam: What a pretty flower!

Kate: That is a hot pink doobie flower. Word.

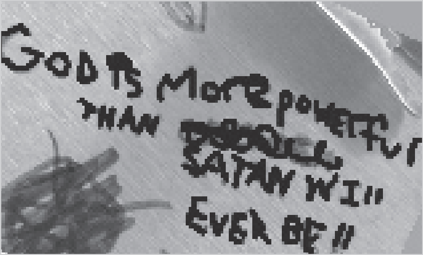


Miriam: I live in the hood. The hood by the middle school.

Kate: I don't think we made the list. Maybe we'll make the list when we actually live in the hood.

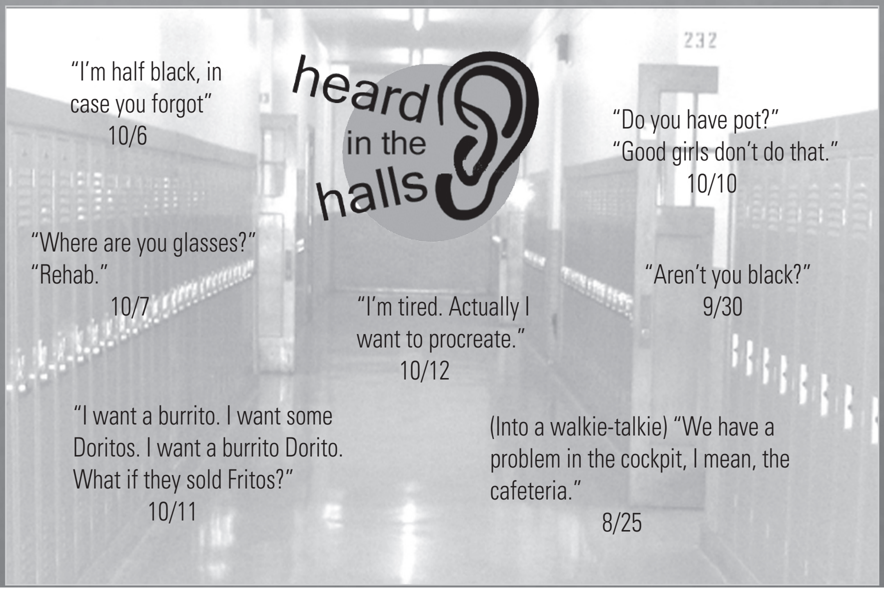
Miriam: I feel old. Kurt Cobain has been dead since I was like, 7.

Kate: If monks can acheive nirvana naked in a blizzard, maybe someone achieved it in the bathroom..



Miriam: I mean, do they know? Have they discussed this with the Almighty?

Kate: The randomness of this exceeds my greatest expectations. I salute you.


heard in the halls
232

"I'm half black, in case you forgot"
10/6

"Do you have pot?"
"Good girls don't do that."
10/10

"Where are you glasses?"
"Rehab."
10/7

"Aren't you black?"
9/30

"I'm tired. Actually I want to procreate."
10/12

"I want a burrito. I want some Doritos. I want a burrito Dorito. What if they sold Fritos?"
10/11

(Into a walkie-talkie) "We have a problem in the cockpit, I mean, the cafeteria."
8/25

Miriam: XM radio?

Kate: Who doesn't do math in the bathroom? What bothers me the most is that there is no answer.

ONLY SHAKER COMES HOME TO THIS DANCE

BY LATASHA LAND
STAFF REPORTER

Although a policy prohibiting non-Shaker dates from attending the Oct. 8 Homecoming dance disappointed students, the rule is not going to change anytime soon.

According to Assistant Principal Frank Wessinger, the policy was adopted because administrators were concerned about the behavior of students who do not attend the high school.

Gabrielle Gordon, a freshman who attended Homecoming, predicted that the policy would hurt the dance's popularity. "I think there is a lot of students who have boyfriends or girlfriends at other schools and I think it will cause a lot of conflicts," she said. Gordon understands the need for the policy, but added "it's sort of dumb and pointless."

Wessinger said the change was a collective administration effort, but that Principal Michael Griffith made the final decision. "We had our own confidence in our own students, we were concerned about those who would attend and were not Shaker students," Wessinger said.

"When it comes to the health and welfare of the students, then I definitely feel the decision was appropriate," he said.

Gordon's prediction that the policy would decrease attendance proved true, Wessinger said about 850 students attended this year's dance, and he estimated that the numbers in the past have been larger.

Senior Sarah Qua had to alter Homecoming plans after finding out two weeks before the dance that she could not attend with her date from St. Edward High School. "It was a time issue. I had already bought a dress and made dinner reservations," Qua said. After her mother sent several e-mails to Griffith, whom Qua said was unwilling to budge on the matter, she decided not to attend the dance at all. "We just went out dinner and hung out instead."

Qua believes the guest policy is too strict and that students from other schools should be allowed to attend if both Shaker and their own high school approve them. "Don't punish a whole group for a few people's actions," Qua said.

Although Griffith hoped students' plans would not be altered. "I feel badly if students didn't come because they could not bring a date, but the focus is to have a safe event," he said.

Neighboring high schools, however, do not restrict guests from attending Homecoming. Tabitha Hunter, who attends Cleveland Heights High School, said that guests from other schools were allowed to come to their dance.

"It fun and extraordinary, but it would have been plain or simple without the guest" said the sophomore, who attended her Homecoming with a non-Heights date.

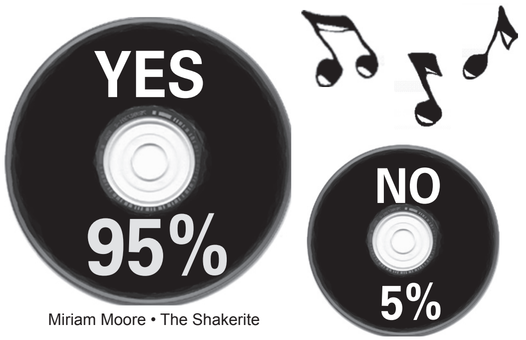
Hunter added that bringing a date from another school helps distinguish the event from the monotony of being with the same group of people. "Homecoming is supposed to be an elegant evening. It really would not be if you are there dancing with the people you see everyday," she said.

Nevertheless, Shaker students will have to settle for familiar faces.

"The policy will remain the same unless we have concerns," Wessinger said.

Contributed to by Miriam Moore

DO YOU THINK GUESTS FROM OTHER HIGH SCHOOLS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND SHAKER'S HOMECOMING DANCE?



Miriam Moore • The Shakerite

Scientific poll of 167 students with a margin or error of +/- 8 percent. Shakerite editors telephoned students.

Miriam Moore • The Shakerite

SENIOR TIFFANY HILL arrives at the homecomiing dance and is permitted to enter after showing photo identification to Principal Michael Griffith at the door. Students had to arrive to the dance with a school ID and ticket.

Homecoming Princess hopeful experiences no fairy tale ending

Katherine O'Bryon

guest 'rite

Once upon a time a junior at SHHS decided to break free of the Homecoming Court spell and make her fairy tale dream to be Homecoming princess come true.

That girl was me, and I soon found out that running for Homecoming princess would be no dream come true.

Several weeks ago, with Homecoming approaching, my friends and I were discussing the never ending cycle of Homecoming Court, and the fact that the same two people had won both freshman and sophomore years.

My friend Jamie Marx best put our sentiments into words:

"It's time for a coup!"

So began my quest for the Homecoming crown.

As I'm sure you all know, it's not traditional to campaign for Homecoming court at Shaker. However, it is common in many other American high schools. I'm sure you also saw the many facets of my homecoming court campaign, as this year I decided to step outside the box.

My campaign paraphernalia was not universally appreciated, and while everyone is entitled to his or her own opinion, the defacing of my signs was not appreciated, nor was it an appropriate form of expression.

My harmless campaign soon became the target of vandalism and vicious gossip, as my atypical course of action became a joke throughout the school.

Rumors are one thing, but destroying personal property is another.

I was deeply offended by the hundreds of defaced posters, and especially by damage done to my car, which resulted in a costly repair.

Running for Homecoming court is a normal and accepted practice of school spirit across the nation, but my attempt to bring this tradition to Shaker was greeted with slanderous rumors and the destruction of my property.

Would it be so bad if we all ran for Homecoming court?

What if it was a fun competition rather than a cause of rude and insulting behavior?

What if the same two people didn't win every year?

I sought a change to the same, boring Homecoming we have every year, and maybe next year someone else will take a chance and help make a change for us all.

The glass slipper should be ready for another Shaker princess.

The glass slipper is ready for another Shaker Princess.

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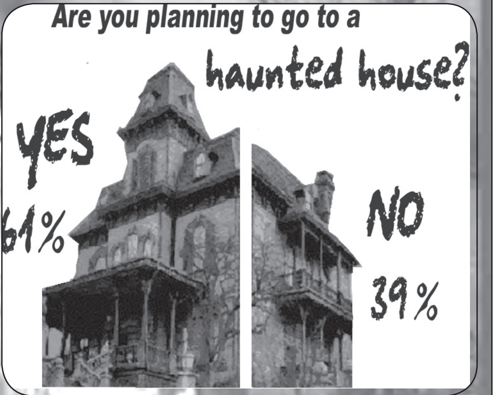

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Scientific poll of 167 students with a margin of error of +/- 8 percent. Shakerite Editors telephoned students.

Poll by Miriam Moore • The Shakerite

Compiled by Courtney McClelland

No-costume policy: dead or alive?

BY KELSEY DEFOREST
STAFF REPORTER

There's a war being waged at the high school, a war that culminates annually in a gruesome, gory battle.

OK, so maybe whether students are allowed to wear costumes to school isn't a war, and maybe the gruesome gore is really latex and make-up, but that doesn't mean students aren't fighting the administration on its policy of discouraging Halloween celebrations of any kind.

Principal Michael Griffith made a PA announcement last year on Oct. 27 in which he discouraged students form celebrating Halloween in school. The announcement had limited effect on students, many of whom came to school in costume anyway.

"Last year, I dressed up because of the ban," said junior Katy Fishman, who dressed as a hippie. "I felt it was ridiculous to expect students not to celebrate when it's such harmless fun."

Once again this year, the administration isn't going so far as to ban costumes altogether; in past years, the district has said no to masks and toy weapons, and that rule still applies. Griffith said that he is just asking students to be reasonable and remember that they are at school.

Assistant Principal Eric Hutchinson emphasized the importance of maintaining an academic environment. "We are trying to make sure the school remains academically conducive," Hutchinson said.

Across the country, schools have abolished Halloween from classrooms for fear of offending certain religions or making students who don't celebrate the holiday feel excluded. Senior Kenneth Dabney does not celebrate Halloween because he is a Jehovah's Witness. But he said as long as kids don't bring weapons to school, costumes are not a big deal. "I've never felt left out because I don't celebrate," Dabney said.

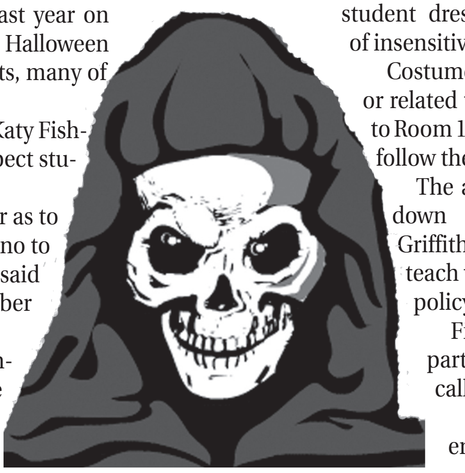
In addition to avoiding masks and props, students should not wear insensitive costumes, Griffith said. He cited an instance in which a student dressed as a pregnant nun as an example of insensitivity.

Costumes—or clothing—revealing too much or related to alcohol or drugs will prompt a visit to Room 110. Griffith added that students should follow the everyday dress code on Halloween.

The administration also attempts to crack down on classroom Halloween parties. Griffith asked that teachers "go ahead and teach the day," but just like with the costume policy, not everyone complies.

Fishman said her teachers have thrown parties before. They're just careful to not call them Halloween parties.

Ultimately, Griffith just asks that everyone "be reasonable and have fun."



Courtney McClelland •The Shakerite

SENIOR FRANKIE SOUCIE displays his Geauga Lake "work attire." Soucie is a scarer in the park's fright zone, part of its Halloween celebrations.

Senior by day, skeleton by night

BY COURTNEY MCCLELLAND
STAFF REPORTER

Frankie Soucie knows he's doing a good job if people wet their pants.

"You just have to go out there, try some different techniques, and see what works best for you," said Soucie, a senior who works at Geauga Lake two nights a week scaring the living daylights out of park visitors who bravely venture into the park's Halloween-themed "Fright Zone."

Soucie arrives at work at 5:30 p.m. and begins the grueling transformation from an ordinary high school student into a terrifying monster.

First, a makeup artist uses adhesive to glue a foam, prosthetic mask to his cheeks, chin, forehead and nose. Next, he's off to the costume room and changes into his skeleton costume from the park's closet full of clothes ranging from typical mummy suits to prom gowns to straight jackets and prison suits. The hour-long process ends with makeup touches to his necks and eyes and any other exposed places, and by 8 p.m. Soucie is ready to scare.

Soucie

Soucie gets into position between two skulls marking the park's "Fright Zone" and spends the next three hours causing Geauga Lake visitors to scream, cry, faint, drop their food and throw their drinks into the air.

Soucie considers himself an expert "scarer," after working at Geauga Lake for two years. His favorite scaring technique is to find a person who looks tentative, walk up behind them very quietly, and scream at them as loud as he can.

He finds that the people who are most easily frightened are girls between the ages of 12 and 16, although he does get a few very amusing reactions from older men.

"Once, I scared a full-grown man who screamed and fell to the ground," Soucie said.

This eerie employment is not all fun and games though. As there is a bar inside the "Fright Zone," a few customers become rowdy and angry if they are spooked and try to harm the workers.

"I've been punched, kicked, hit and had my hair pulled," Soucie said of the drunken visitors. Also, there have been problems with young children being brought into the "Fright Zone" despite signs posted by Geauga Lake discouraging them from entering.

"Sometimes the parents get really upset," explained Soucie. "And the children start crying hysterically." In these cases the workers are instructed to break character and do their best to show the child that they are in fact real people who are not trying to harm them.

Soucie takes his job seriously. He takes it upon himself to give the customers the scare of their lives. He intends to return next year with new scaring techniques.

For anyone looking to work in a haunted house, Soucie had a suggestion. "Be willing to work long hours, be willing to be cold, and have the time of your life!"

Steroids build statistical tragedy

Don Hooton is living a nightmare.

His son, Taylor, killed himself because of steroids' side affects when he was 17 years old. Taylor felt symptoms of depression after discontinuing his use of anabolic steroids, synthetic hormones that stimulate muscle tissue and bone growth.

DAVID
O'CONNELL

Don, who runs the Taylor Hooton Foundation, publicly denounced Major League Baseball for its weak policies towards steroid use. It's a shame that it took this student athlete's death to make us realize how serious high-school steroid use is and how much we have to learn about these drugs. Why is this athlete's sacrifice the biggest combatant in the battle against performance enhancing drugs?

Taylor, like steroid users, probably realized the effects of the drug as well as the hazards of the powerful substance. Taylor's friends and family are educating young athletes, coaches and parents about the dangers of performance-enhancing drugs because right now fewer than 4 percent of schools have drug-testing policies.

What is the message that high school athletes are receiving? Don't be fooled into thinking steroids don't work because that's like saying marijuana doesn't get you high. Steroids are making athletes physically robust faster than training and dieting, yet can affect the bodies immune and cardiovascular systems, in addition to a laundry list of side effects.

The side effects of steroids are extensive in both men and women who use them. Athletes use them knowing they may put their lives in danger but become addicted to the powers bestowed: stronger muscles, toned bodies and an easy undeniable advantage over competition. It doesn't end with steroids.

Tests show that the stimulant amphetamine increases performance up to 4 percent in swimmers, runners and weight throwers. It's a dogfight to be considered for an athletic scholarship, meaning an inch in height and a millisecond in a 40-yard sprint can determine a scholarship to a prestigious Division 1 school. The question is how far are athletes willing to go to earn that award? Colleges may also look for how much room a person has to grow, what potential they have in increasing height and body weight. I've had college coaches tell me they can teach their sport, but they can't teach speed, strength or size. If that's the impression students are receiving, temptation becomes an issue. The danger is that the side effects of steroids and stimulants may not seem like much in exchange for a free ride to college.

I never want to wake up and read that a teammate has died because his body couldn't tolerate the complications of steroids or that emotional side effects led to his or her suicide.

The competition for collegiate athletics is tough. According to a Sports Illustrated census in 2000-2001, there were 1,023,712 high school football players. There are only 22,779 football scholarships available in the NCAA.

Nearly 7 percent of high school students nationwide have tried steroids, and while the use of performance enhancing drugs may not be considered a high school epidemic, try telling that to Dan Hooton. There's obviously something wrong.

SERVING UP SUCCESS

Dan Snider • The Shakerite

RIPPING A SHOT, senior Kori Linzie competes in the LEL tournament Sept. 30. Linzie and Lauren Holloway earned a trip to the state tournament as a doubles team. The two came in second in the Lake Erie League tournament and fourth in the district. They are two of only six qualifiers for the state doubles tournament.

• Women's tennis dominates LEL, sends doubles team to states

WOMEN'S TENNIS BY THE NUMBERS

5	LEL titles
4	freshmen on varsity
5	PD top ranking
2	LEL doubles finish
2	people went to states

BY CAMILLE WALLS
STAFF REPORTER

The Shaker womens' tennis team quickly disposed of competition at the LEL tournament and sent two to states.

Senior Kori Linzie and freshman Lauren Holloway moved on to the state doubles tournament.

"They have a good team dynamic," senior Jessie Schiller said.

The women's tennis team, collectively, coached by Allan Slawson, won the Lake Erie League tournament.

"We were probably one of the most talented teams that we've had in a really long time," said Schiller.

Slawson said he is happy for his athletes.

"I decided to coach because I enjoy tennis and it's a good way to work with young people," Slawson said.

The team lost only one match in the tournament.

Junior Jamie Marx, who has played for four years, did not play due to an injury. She described the girls' season as successful.

"We did awesome," Linzie said. "We lost a couple of games before we got to sectionals. Because of that, we came out real strong in sectionals."

This year has been different than past seasons.

Four freshmen made the varsity squad: Hannah Gordon, Lauren Holloway, Amanda Polster and Abby Schiller. Jessie Schiller said that the combination of the freshmen and an Italian foreign exchange student "added lots of fun to the team."

"We knew we were going to win," Marx said.

Dan Snider • The Shakerite

FRESHMAN AMANDA POLSTER serves during the Lake Erie Leauge tournament. Polster was one of four freshman on the women's varsity tennis team this season.

> They have a good team dynamic. They always try their hardest and they should do well at states.
>
> Jessie Schiller • senior

COACH GOES THE DISTANCE FOR CHARITY

BY SCOTT ROWND
STAFF REPORTER

When a Shaker football player was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease, JV football coach Rob Senor decided to make a difference.

"I've always made it a habit of helping people," Senor said. "This is just one more opportunity for me to do that."

In January, Senor will run a 26.2-mile marathon in Phoenix with the Team in Training organization to help raise money for leukemia, lymphoma and Hodgkin's disease patients and research.

Senor

Team in Training, in exchange for money to help research provides coaches, supplies and training sessions.

"I was never really a runner," Senor said. "I ran occasionally on my own to stay in shape, but have been playing recreational softball more."

Senor, 27, is also a varsity linebacker coach and the JV baseball coach and has been coaching since he was a junior at The Ohio State University. He is an elementary and junior high physical education teacher in the Cleveland Public School system.

"Coach Senor is always willing to help out," said sophomore center Will Caldes. "He looks out for every one of us."

Junior linebacker Justin Maraschky knew Senor as a considerate coach.

"Coach Senor's always been an outgoing person who cares about his players," Maraschky said. "I wasn't surprised that he would help people, though I didn't know he would go this far."

Senor first found out about the marathon and Team in Training from a fellow coach.

"I went to some of the meetings and there I heard some really inspiring stories from cancer survivors and others," Senor said.

People see Senor as an ambitious and positive individual.

"I've always known Senor to be a determined person," said head football coach Dave Sedmak. "He seems to be able to do anything he puts his mind to."

Senor and other Team in Training volunteers run as a group every other week.

"Other than that I've just taken the advice and worked out by myself. I have been running four to seven miles a day and take long runs of 10 miles once every week. I also mix in a little biking to give myself some variety training," Senor said.

Senor goes on runs five days a week by himself, working with advice that Team in Training coaches give him.

"I've never done this before, so right now my goal is just to finish. No specific time, just to finish," Senor said.

The goal of the P.F Chang's Rock and Roll Marathon in Phoenix is to raise money for Team in Training.

Senor must raise $3,700, with a small portion going to travel expenses and the rest being donated to the organization. Donations via credit card can be made at www.active.com/donations/fundraise_public.cfm?key=tntnohRSenor.

Team in Training, founded in 1988, gives volunteers many options for ways to help. They provide races and coaching for different types of endurance races.

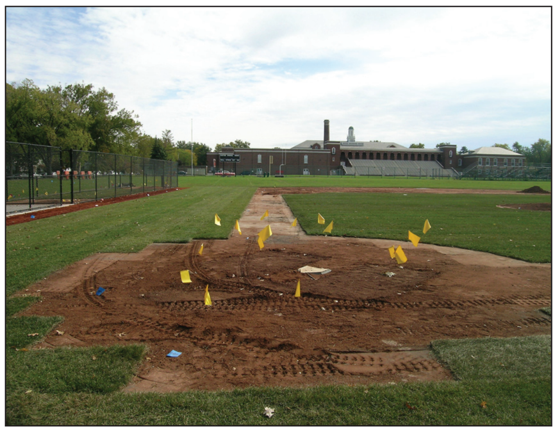
Bike races, marathons, walks and triathlons are available for anyone of any skill level or shape. An estimated more than 30,000 participants support Team in Training each year by testing themselves in the races.

Dan Snider • The Shakerite

ROB SENOR DIRECTS his special teams players during practice. Senor, a varsity linebacker coach, JV football coach and the JV baseball head coach, is running a marathon with the Team in Training organization in Phoenix. The race will benefit leukemia, lymphoma and Hodgkins disease patients.

After renovations, baseball team faces hop-less season

David O"Connell • The Shakerite


David O"Connell • The Shakerite

BEFORE CONSTRUCTION, THE baseball field (top) was replaced with new fences, infield dirt and a restructed backstop which was moved 15 feet behind home plate (bottom).

• Bumpy field gets new sod, improved drainage, more foul territory

BY EIAN KATZ
STAFF REPORTER

When baseball season rolls around, the era of the "Shaker hop" will have come to an end.

The term, coined by players and fans, refers to the hazardous baseball bounces caused by the old baseball diamond's uneven terrain.

"The field was extremely bumpy last year and caused some crazy and dangerous hops," said varsity baseball coach Bud Longo. "The old field was totally worn out."

Longo believes the renovation may help the team to cut down on their errors and perhaps improve on last year's 19-11 record because tricky bounces will be less of a problem.

The renovations will be complete by the start of the spring season, with the infield to be finished soon and work on the outfield beginning in November.

Among the changes being made to the field are new fencing, improved drainage and sprinkler systems, a resodded infield and outfield, enclosed bullpens, and pushing the backstop back 15 feet, which increases the area behind home plate. In total, the construction will cost slightly more than $350,000.

"I'm excited to play on it," said Jared Beachy, a sophomore catcher and outfielder.

Those who play other sports, however, view the new field differently.

Freshman soccer player Charlie Milter feels it is unfair that the baseball field was remade while the soccer field at Woodbury, where men's and women's soccer and lacrosse play, lies in a sorrier state.

Senior Khali Faulkner believes the field is in need of development.

"Our lacrosse field has been pretty torn up over the years," said Faulkner. "It definitely deserves a facelift."

Players feel there was an advantage to competing on their home turf.

"An old joke of the team is that we could always win at home because we would know where the bumps on the field were," said Kelsey Ekeberg, a junior on the soccer team.

David O'Connell • The Shakerite

WELDING THE PIPES together, workers construct a fence Oct. 19 for the new bullpen at the baseball field behind the high school. Recent improvements to the field include resodded grass, a new drainage system and a new sprinkler system. The field will see its first action when the baseball team throws its opening pitch in April.

Beachy, who also plays soccer, admits that the baseball field wasn't in particularly poor condition.

He also believes that the Woodbury field is more deserving of a makeover.

District business administrator David Puffer, who was largely responsible for getting the baseball field to be redone, said, "There are currently no plans to renovate any other district fields."

Athletic Director David Sedmak said the baseball field was chosen for renovation primarily due to its poor drainage.

A defective draining system is especially problematic in Northeast Ohio, where the weather can be as unpredictable as the ballgames.

"We would get so many games cancelled because of rain," senior Alex Math said. "It was very vulnerable to bad weather."

Three Shaker teams have advanced to the playoffs: The mens' and womens' soccer teams and the field hockey team. Mens' soccer lost to Mayfield in the second round 2-1 Oct. 20. The womens' team also played Mayfield Oct. 21, but as of press time no results were available. The field hockey team defeated Magnificant in their first playoff game, 5-3 and will play HB Oct.26.

a RAIDER
a BUCKEYE
a BILL

NATE CLEMENTS STORMS out of the tunnel before an Aug. 20 exhibition game against Green Bay in Buffalo. At press time, Clements had 34 tackles and one interception in six games. Clements is coming off a Pro Bowl season in 2004 in which he recorded six interceptions and 87 tackles.

Courtesy of the Buffalo Bills

NFL Pro Bowler Clements honored for Shaker roots

BY TEDDY CAHILL
STAFF REPORTER

As Nate Clements ('98) held his newly retired number 20 Shaker jersey over his head on Oct. 15, emotions raced through his body.

"It was an unexplainably good feeling," said Clements, Shaker's most famous athletic alumnus.

The retiring of Nate Clements' jersey marked the first time a Shaker athlete had their jersey number retired.

Clements earned the honor by being selected to last year's NFL Pro Bowl, representing the Buffalo Bills.

"I think he deserves this honor," said senior quarterback Alex Math. "He has represented Shaker well in the league."

The home stands at Russell H. Rupp Field, packed for Red Raider Day, roared their approval when Clements was awarded the jersey by head coach Dave Sedmak.

Alanna Kaiser • The Shakerite

SHAKER STANDOUT NATE Clements holds his framed No. 20 jersey Oct. 15 at Russell H. Rupp Stadiu. Clements was honored at halftime during the Shaker vs. Mentor football game.

He was later surrounded for the whole third quarter by autograph seekers young and old.

"I never imagined that this would happen, it's just an example of where hard work can take you," he said.

Clements had great success at Shaker where he was both a cornerback and quarterback his senior year.

That year, USA Today, Blue Chip Illustrated and SuperPrep magazine named Clements an All-American. Clements was also named All-Ohio.

While at Shaker Clements learned valuable lessons that have helped him succeed at all levels. "His humility allowed him to get better each season at Shaker and beyond," Sedmak said.

In high school, Clements set a single-season record with seven interceptions and set career records with 14 interceptions and 125 tackles. He also returned two punts and one kickoff for touchdowns during his Shaker career.

"As a junior I started seeing special little things, but in 12 grade I started seeing special big things," said Sedmak.

After graduating, Clements attended The Ohio State University, where he played cornerback and returned kicks.

Clements had 154 solo tackles and seven interceptions in his college career. In 2000, he was named to the All-Big Ten Conference first team.

Clements then entered the NFL draft as a junior, where he was drafted 21 overall by the Buffalo Bills fulfilling one of his high school goals to play in the NFL. "It was a blessing [to be drafted in the first round]," said Clements.

"The bar has been raised, it will take something really special for someone to have a number retired now," Sedmak said.

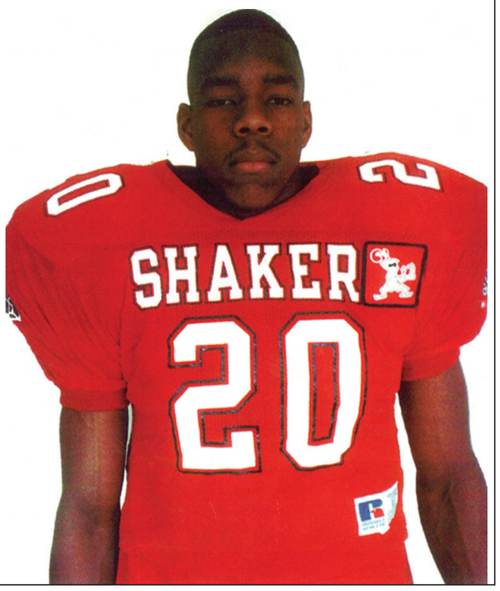
by the #'s

CLEMENTS CAREER BY THE NUMBERS

- Played three varsity seasons
- Career record with 14 interceptions
- 125 career tackles
- Three career punt return TDs
- 90 rushing attempts for 737 yds
- One career kick return TD
- Single-season record with seven Interceptions in senior year
- Played quarterback and cornerback in senior year
- Had 42 tackles in senior year
- 650 rushing yards on 76 attempts in senior year
- Ten rushing TDs senior year
- Named All-American by USA Today, Blue Chip Illustrated, and Super Prep senior year.
- Named All-Ohio senior year.
- Recorded 48 tackles junior year

- Attended Ohio State
- Recorded 154 tackles and seven Intercptions
- Named All-Big Ten first team in 2000
- Left OSU in junior year and was drafted 21st overall in the NFL draft by the Buffalo Bills
- 280 tackles in NFL career

- 18 interceptions in NFL career
- Named to Pro Bowl in 2004
- Four fourced fumbles in 2004
- Six interceptions in 2004 season
- 87 tackles in 2004



Courtesy of David Sedmak